

September 16<sup>th</sup>

Oregon POLST Task Force Update

LuAnn Cook, NPO representative

Pat Dunn, MD retired as the Task Force chair after 20 years of leadership. Margie Carlyle has moved from the Vice Chair to Chair.

The Oregon POLST Registry is nearing the first anniversary, Dec 3, 2010. The Registry has over 22,000 active forms in the data base. These forms have been sent from all over the state of Oregon. Please let me know if any of your practice areas would like to have additional education on the Registry or use of POLST in general. I would be happy to provide or facilitate additional training.

POLST is entering the 21<sup>st</sup> century through development the ePOLST format. Providence Health Systems will be involved in a pilot project within the next year. I will update you in the coming months.

The POLST form is coming up for revisions again and I have volunteered to work on the subcommittee. In the past I have discussed with many of you about removal of the antibiotic check box. Research information has been reviewed around this section and it has not proven to offer any benefit to the discussion nor to directing care. AT this time it is being recommended to remove it. I will be happy to entertain more conversation around this. I support the removal at this time. Please contact me to share your thoughts. I may be reached at [luann\\_cook@uhc.com](mailto:luann_cook@uhc.com) or 503-746-0053.

POLST task force has a new portion statement on recognizing POLST forms from other states. Pleas read this excerpt:

**“If a patient arrives in a hospital emergency department with a non-Oregon POLST form signed by a non-Oregon health care professional the emergency physician can use that POLST form to direct patient treatment until more information becomes available. The common practice is for the admitting physician to then discuss the POLST orders with the patient or legally authorized surrogate. The admitting physician will acknowledge that the out-of-state professional signer of the POLST form has previously spoken to the patient about his or her wishes. The admitting physician then reissues the orders, or changes them if the patient indicates such a change is now desired.”**

This document will be on the Oregon POLST website for downloading and referencing.

I am always looking for another individual who is interested in being involved in the Task Force. Feel free to contact me with interest.

Respectfully submitted,

LuAnn Cook