

OREGON POLST™

POLST Form Recommendation

Recommendation:

Remove Section C (Artificially Administered Nutrition) from future versions of the Oregon POLST™ form.

Background/Justification:

The artificial nutrition and hydration section of the POLST form was originally created to promote planning in the context of advancing dementia. In the early 1990s when Oregon created the POLST program, it was thought that placement of a feeding tube extended life for those with advanced dementia; now we know this is not true. ([“American Geriatrics Society Feeding Tubes in Advanced Dementia Position Statement”](#)).

Regarding the Oregon POLST™ form:

Artificial nutrition does not apply in medical emergency situations. Informed consent discussions are held prior to surgical placement with written consent for surgery obtained from patients or their surrogates.