



POLST Policy Recommendation for POLST EHR One-Click Access

Recommendation:

POLST forms are accessible with one-click (one-step) in Electronic Health Records (EHRs)

Background/Justification:

The Oregon POLST Registry functions as a backup system when POLST is not immediately available to emergency medical services (EMS) in a crisis. For persons at home, having their POLST form (or POLST Registry magnet) provides immediate access to medical orders to guide EMS treatment decisions in a medical emergency.

Health care professionals in organizations without one-click POLST access within the EHR report difficulties locating existing POLST forms. Some have attempted a work around by noting the existence of POLST on the Problem List. The Coalition feels that while helpful, this method is prone to a higher error rate than one-click access to POLST on the patient header.

As organizations revise and update their EHR system, the Oregon POLST Coalition recommends that one-click POLST form access be included in the system design. The Coalition recommends having POLST separate from advance directives on the patient header with a yes/no indicator linking to each advance care planning document. In addition, bidirectional data flow to the Oregon POLST Registry is recommended. This integrated access allows users to obtain POLST forms completed in other settings of care.