

- The name has changed.** POLST® now stands for **Portable Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment**. M.D., D.O., N.P., P.A., and N.D. are all authorized signers.
- The color of the form has changed.** To improve the quality of copies, the 2019 POLST form is white with a pink border. Prior versions of the POLST form remain valid. Photocopies, faxes, electronically signed forms, and verbal orders are also valid.
- Clarification on airway management for CPR and Limited Treatment orders.** Limited Treatment in Section B on the POLST form can be a source of uncertainty for EMS, particularly regarding airway management.

The image shows the 2019 Oregon POLST form, which is white with a pink border. It is titled "Oregon POLST" and "Portable Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment". The form includes sections for patient information, medical interventions, documentation of who was present for discussion, patient or surrogate signature, and attestation of the provider. The form is divided into sections A, B, C, D, and E.

2019 Oregon POLST Form

To clarify:

- "No intubation" refers to endotracheal intubation.
- "Advanced airway interventions" refer to interventions including placement of supraglottic airway devices, cricothyrotomy, and transtracheal jet insufflation, in addition to endotracheal intubation and mechanical ventilation.
- Inserting an oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal airway, tracheostomy tube or stoma care (e.g., suctioning), and/or providing bag valve mask ventilation/oxygenation, would not be considered an "advanced airway intervention." These treatments should be provided, as appropriate, in patients with orders for Limited Treatment, including those with return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC).

- EMS cannot require a POLST to transport a patient.** POLST is meant for people with advanced illness. It is also for people who are older and frail and might not want all medical treatments. Often patients transported to a facility for short-term rehabilitation are "too healthy" to have a POLST form. The facility discharge orders will usually list these patients as full code.
- Call the Emergency Communication Center (ECC) if you suspect that a patient has a POLST form and it cannot be located at the scene.** Ask about POLST for patients who are long-term residents of a nursing home, assisted living, adult foster home, or enrolled in home hospice have a POLST form in the Oregon POLST Registry. If POLST not found, call ECC.
- Transporting patients with Comfort Measures Only.** While a patient may prefer to remain out of the hospital, that is not always possible. Transport is indicated when symptoms cannot be managed at the scene. If the patient is enrolled in hospice and time permits, it is advisable to assure that hospice has been called and authorized the transport. Hospice may be able to manage symptoms avoiding the need for transport. If hospice has not authorized the transport, insurance may not cover any portion of the transport or ED care, and the patient or their estate may be billed the full cost for their medical care.