

2023 Oregon Legislative Session

The Oregon Legislature is currently in session reviewing bills and discussing topics important to Oregonians. The Oregon Medical Board requested **Senate Bill 232** to update the Board's telemedicine regulations. The recent pandemic, advances in technology, and increased movement of patients and providers has presented a greater need and flexibility for telemedicine. The proposed updates allow an out-of-state physician or PA (not licensed in Oregon) to provide continuity of care via telemedicine in specified circumstances when patient needs are best served by the established caregiver. The bill makes the following changes to statute:

- Add that the practice of medicine occurs where the patient is located.
- Clarify an out-of-state physician or PA with an established provider-patient relationship may provide care to a person temporarily in Oregon for the purpose of business/work, education, or vacation without a set time limit (e.g. a college student studying in Oregon for four years or a person while on vacation in Oregon for one week).
- Add that an out-of-state physician or PA with an established provider-patient relationship may provide temporary or intermittent follow-up care to a person in Oregon (e.g. an Oregon resident who follows up intermittently with an out-of-state specialist).
- Add rulemaking authority to allow the Oregon Medical Board to administer and enforce this section.

SB 232 would formalize the Oregon Medical Board's **Telemedicine Statement of Philosophy** that was updated in April 2022. The newsletter will contain updates if this change is adopted by the Oregon Legislature. +

Additional Protections Added to 2023 Oregon POLST Form

A revised Portable Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form went live on January 3, 2023. Forms submitted after July 1, 2023, must meet the new requirements to be accepted into the Oregon POLST Registry. Existing forms do not need to be replaced if the patient's wishes have not changed.

Key changes include:

- Section C is now mandatory. This is the section in which to document who was present for the conversation, including any individuals who participated by phone or video connection. Requiring this documentation reinforces the patient's right to support person(s) for these important conversations.
- If "Attempt Resuscitation/CPR" is selected, then "Full Treatment" must be chosen in Section B.
- "Limited Treatment" in Section B is now "Selective Treatment." Though the name has changed, the scope of treatments in this option is unchanged.

POLST Core Principles:

- POLST is always voluntary. A POLST can never be required as a condition of treatment/care.
- POLST forms should only be completed for patients who wish to set limits on treatment and who have advanced illness or frailty. It is not appropriate for persons with stable long-term disability.
- For patients being discharged to short-term rehab who are Full Code, we recommend using the facility's code status orders rather than a POLST form.
- POLST is not appropriate for healthy older adults. We recommend against routinely discussing POLST at Welcome to Medicare or Medicare Wellness Visits. Instead, an Advance Directive should be offered.

Additional information can be found by scanning the QR code below or by visiting OregonPOLST.org/qr-code.



Information for patients is available in English and a growing number of additional languages on Oregon POLST's [Patients and Family webpage](#). +