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Advanced Care Planning and End of Life Choices



2022 Compliance | Quality Dept.

Don't be Afraid to Talk

End Of Life (EOL) Discussions

- Are not associated with increased depression or worry. In fact, it can be relieving to patients and caregivers, allowing choices.
- Are associated with lower rates of ventilation, CPR, and ICU care

Aggressive EOL Care

- Is associated with worse patient quality of life
- Has a higher risk of caregiver depression in bereavement period

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EOL Conversations: How to Start

- "What concerns you the most about your illness?"
- "How is treatment going for you and your family?"
- "As you think about your illness, what is the best and the worst that might happen?"
- "What has been the most difficult about this illness for you?"
- "What are your hopes (your expectations and your fears) for the future?"
- "As you think about the future, what is most important to you?"

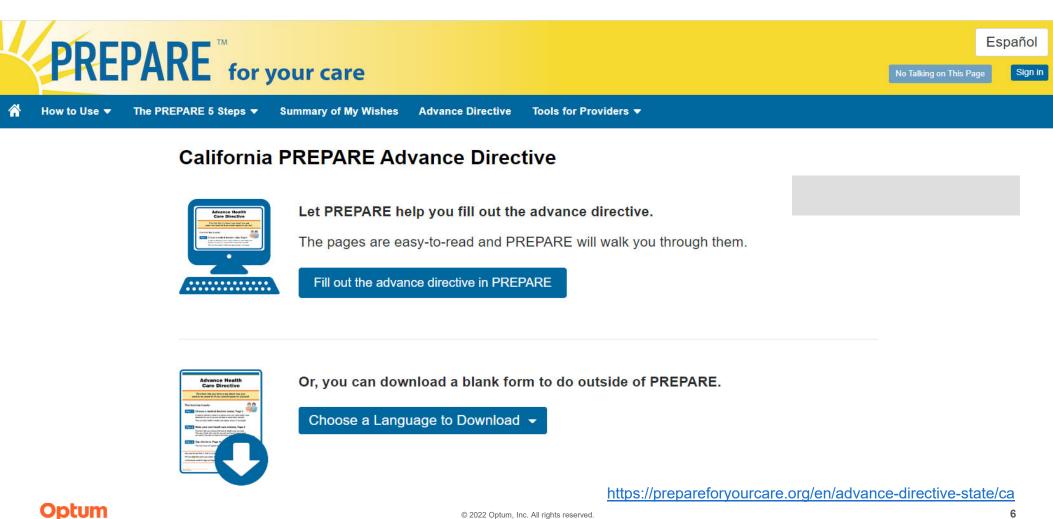
Definitions

- Advanced Directive: This document is called different things in different states (e.g., living will, health care power of attorney). It is a legal document used to provide guidance about what types of treatments a patient may want to receive in case of a future, unknown medical emergency; it is also where patients designate a surrogate. Advanced health care directives (AHCD) may be revoked orally at any time until patient loses decision-making capacity. <u>All adults should have an advance directive</u>.
- **Durable Power of Attorney:** A legally binding document that allows the patient's person of choice (agent) to make health decisions if the member is no longer able to make such decisions. This includes routine medical decisions, as well as more complicated decisions. The agent may not be the attending physician. The document must be signed by two qualified adult witnesses. Those persons not eligible to be witnesses are attending physicians, nurses or their employee or any other healthcare professional that is involved with the patient's care.
- **POLST:** (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) This is a medical order that tells emergency health care professionals what to do during a medical crisis where the patient cannot speak for him or herself. <u>POLST forms are appropriate for individuals with a serious illness or frailty near the end-of-life</u>.

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What the Health Care Agent can decide for the Patient?

- Medical/surgical treatment and organ procurement/donation
- Withholding/withdrawing medical treatment
- Admission/placement to a health care facility
- Release of medical records
- Selection and oversight of health care providers
- Living environment
- Apply for Medicare, MediCal or other programs



Prepare for your Care

PREPARE is a program that Optum uses to help patients make medical decisions for themselves and others and document their Advanced Directive(s).

Prepareforyourcare.org

- Evidence-based, NCQA endorsed.
- Prepares patients and surrogates for medical decision making, decreasing surrogate burden, PTSD and complicated grief.
- Available in 11 different languages and at a 5th grade reading level

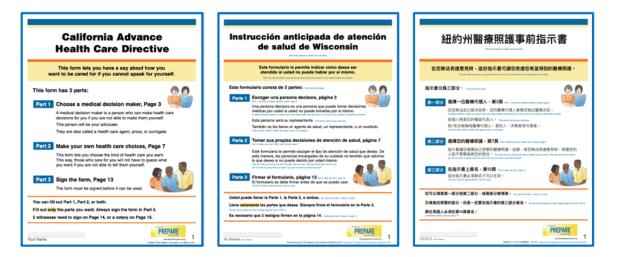


https://prepareforyourcare.org/en/fag

Decreases Health Disparities

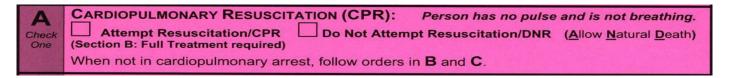
PREPARE, co-created with communities to address:

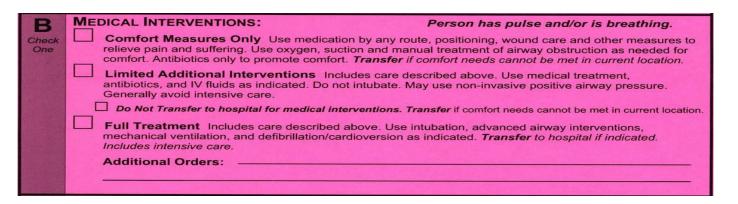
- Outdated models of ACP (i.e., check boxes)
- Limited health and digital literacy
- Cultural and language diversity
- Visual, hearing, cognitive impairment

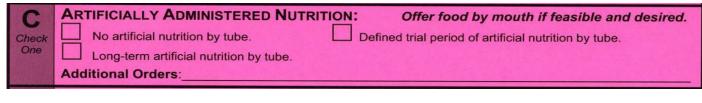


What is POLST?

Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment







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POLST Essentials

- Not just a form POLST establishes a community plan of care
- A physician order that specifies a range of medical treatments
- Portable document honored across health care settings

Who should have one?

- Would you be surprised if the patient died within 12 months?
- Is your patient seriously ill? Exhibiting functional decline? Experiencing frequent admissions or complex care requirements?

Allows clarification of Goals of Care

- Resuscitation: CPR vs AND
- Medical interventions: Comfort Measures Only vs Limited Interventions (generally avoid Intensive Care), vs Full Treatment
- Artificially administered nutrition (Gtube, NGtube, TPN)
- Alternate decision maker

Does POLST Replace the Advance Health Care Directive?

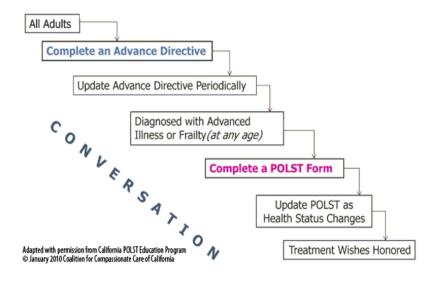
The POLST **<u>compliments</u>** the Advance Health Care Directive (AHCD).

• California law requires physician orders in a POLST to be followed by healthcare professionals.

The AHCD allows you to:

- Name a health care decision maker
- Make general statements about health care wishes
- Does not give medial orders.

Encourage **everyone** 18 years and older to complete an Advanced Health Care Directive



Documentation for Healthcare Providers

Healthcare providers must ensure that an Advanced Directive (AHCD) is completed and on file in the patient's chart.

Documentation must exist in the patient's chart that they were offered information on an AHCD, they refused the information, or that they have one and it is in the chart.

- For patients who have a completed an AHCD:
 - Request a copy of the directive to scan into the patient's EHR.
 - The original document is always returned to the patient.
 - Document receipt of advanced directive in EHR note.
- For patients with No AHCD:
 - Employed Optum providers can access the Prepare for Your Care Advanced Directive form within the Allscripts EHR.
 - Other legally approved forms, such as the Advanced Health Care Directive (4701) form, available from multiple other sources may be accepted from patients.
 - The most recent copy of any advanced directive or POLST form takes precedent and is honored.

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Resources

- 1. Policy RM-Optum-CA-001
- 2. 42 CFR §§ 489.100, 422.128
- 3. California Probate Code §§ 4700-4701
- 4. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 92009) Conditions for Coverage 42 CFR
 416.Interprtive Guidelines §416.50 (a) (2)
- 5. Patient Self Determination Act (PSDA)
- 6. Prepare for Your Care Advanced Directive form
- 7. ADVANCE HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE (4701) form
- 8. POLST form



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