

Virginia Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST) Update

2016 has been an exciting year for the Virginia POST Initiative, with two significant accomplishments:

- In January, *Virginia was recognized as the 19th Endorsed State Program by the National POLST Paradigm Task Force. “POLST is designed to improve patient care and reduce medical errors,”* said Amy Vandenbroucke, executive director of the National POLST Paradigm. *“We are grateful that in Virginia, patients with serious illness or frailty in what may be their last year of life can work with medical professionals to make their treatment wishes known.”*
- In November, the Virginia regulation governing Durable Do Not Resuscitate Orders (12VAC5-66) was amended to *recognize the VA POST Form as a DDNR. In addition to strong support and expert guidance from the Office of Emergency Medical Services, the amendment received support from the Board of Health, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Governor.*

A POST form is an order form signed by a physician or healthcare practitioner which communicates and puts into action treatment preferences for patients who are nearing the end of their lives. POST is designed to help healthcare professionals know and honor the treatment wishes of their patients.

A revised VA POST form will be available in early 2017. Prior forms will continue to be honored, but we recommend you contact the POST Virginia home at the following web site to receive updated forms: www.virginiapost.org. Once on that site, click “Contact Us” and complete the form OR call 703-531-6225.

As always, the staff at Good Samaritan Hospice is available to help you or your patients with their advance care planning needs.



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We appreciate and rely on you. Call us. We want to hear your concerns and do whatever it takes to give you the assurance that the care we provide to your patients is excellent, compassionate, and professional. Your patients matter. You matter.

Thank you for joining us to make a difference – to affirm life in the midst of illness and grief.

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