

Implementing POLST - Experiences

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POLST
CALIFORNIA

PHYSICIAN ORDERS FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT

Alameda County Medical Center

- Acute hospital – 236 beds, 80,000 ED
- Psychiatric hospital – 80 beds
- Rehab hospital + SNF – 159 beds
- 3 freestanding clinics



Champion of Yesteryear

- Before 2009, before AB3000
- James Mittelberger MD
 - Demonstration project
 - Policies before models
 - Grants



Champions of Today

- Our Palliative Care team



- Our Geriatrician



Aligning Policies & Practices

- Baking the POLST paradigm into policies
 - DNR in the OR
 - In outpatient procedures?
- Reconstructing code status order set

The Value of Relentless Messaging

- Frequent small reminders
- Personalize it!
 - People
 - Stories
 - The unfortunate Mr. S.



The Power of the Hammer

- When the state says jump, we say "how high?"
- The value of MDS 3 in the SNF

Failure & Resistance

- Paranoid Fantasies
- Uncooperative Colleagues
- Form over Conversation
- DNR but Full Treatment

What's next?

- EHR Implementation
- Palliative Care expansion
- More Training