

Palliative Care Physician Meeting Summary – February 23, 2010

[POLST](#) and simplified advanced directives spur patient dialogue and decisions on palliative and end-of-life care. Participants described current use of these tools and discussed opportunities to move forward with Jim Mittelberger, an expert on POLST in California.

Attendees:

- **Ken Barnes** – St. Luke's Palliative Care and Mission Hospice in San Mateo
- **Jeffrey Beane** – Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco
- **Connie Borden** – St. Mary's, San Francisco
- **Mary Giammona** – Health Plan of San Mateo
- **Steve Heilig** – San Francisco Medical Society
- **Terry Hill** – Palliative Care Physician
- **Eric Isaacs** – San Francisco General
- **Anne Kinderman** – San Francisco General
- **Andrew Lasher** – California Pacific Medical Center
- **Jim Mittelberger** - Evercare Hospice, California Coalition for Compassionate Care
- **Cherie Mohrfeld** – Metta Fund
- **Jeff Newman** – SHIRE and UCSF
- **Phil Oravetz** – Mills Peninsula
- **Marc Rothman** – Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco
- **Catherine Seeley** – California Pacific Medical Center
- **Frank Staggers, SR** – Alta Bates Summit – Ethnic Health Institute
- **Frank Staggers, JR** – Physician, Addiction Medicine
- **Rebecca Sudore** – San Francisco VA and UCSF
- **Eric Widera** – San Francisco VA

Needs and Challenges

While POLST and simplified advanced directives are being utilized at provider organizations represented, a community-wide initiative, such as a POLST Coalition, would expedite dissemination.

- Many Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) and hospital patients deserve evaluation.
- Appropriate patients may also be identified in primary and residential care settings
- POLST forms and advanced directives may be filled out, used and/or interpreted incorrectly. Additional training for physicians and other clinicians is needed

Opportunities and Models for Success

- Kaiser and the Department of Public Health (SFGH & Laguna Honda) are incorporating POLST information in their electronic medical records. CPMC is initiating POLST forms into its active palliative care consultation program.
- [Simplified advanced directives](#) are now published in multiple languages and used successfully.
- Primary care providers may consider POLST for patients at highest need for end-of-life care.
- The [CA Coalition for Compassionate Care](#) is developing a physician education program on POLST. We have requested that SF and the Bay Area be considered as pilot sites.
- SHIRE is working with the SF Medical Society on an article for its Journal and on providing information for physicians on its Web site. We are also collaborating with the SF End of Life Coalition to strengthen its multidisciplinary efforts www.sfeol.org