



# ETHICS IN END-OF-LIFE CARE: PATIENT PREFERENCES, PALLIATIVE CARE, AND THE MORAL WEIGHT OF THE ADVANCE DIRECTIVE AND POLST



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**8:30 am Registration / Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 am POLST: Doing it Right!**

**Abstract:** This workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of POLST and allow learners an opportunity to enhance skills in POLST conversation facilitation. POLST works best when someone has selected the person who would speak for them if they became unable to make their own medical decisions. During this workshop we will review techniques and tools to improve facilitation skills through role-plays and case studies to promote ability, competence and comfort level when facilitating conversations with patients/residents and their families. Finally, we will review teaching materials that can be used across all health care settings to successfully implement a POLST program.

**12:00 pm LUNCH**

**12:45 pm Advance Directives: Problems and Prospects**

**Abstract:** Advance directives allow people to make decisions about what sort of medical treatment they want, or don't want, should they no longer be able to make those decisions for themselves. Advance directives are widely praised among healthcare professionals as an important way of safeguarding patient autonomy. This talk will describe three distinct problems with that conventional wisdom, and an additional philosophical problem with the use of advance directives for patients with severe dementia. In light of those concerns, we will consider whether the widespread use of advance directives should be supported, and whether advance directives should be broadly recommended to patients, as is the current practice.

**2:30 pm Spiritual Care and Ethics in Palliative and Hospice Care Settings**

**Abstract:** Chaplains are not your typical religious or spiritual leaders; they are specifically trained for acute hospital care. This presentation will discuss the differences among religion, spirituality, spiritual care, and spiritual needs, and will show how religion is not always at the core of a person's spirituality. From this understanding we will discuss what a chaplain looks for in helping a patient and how a chaplain works with the patient's understanding of what is happening to them physically, emotionally, and spiritually. This is in order to help patients get to a place of better understanding within themselves, enable them to make proper decisions, and cultivate trust that they are going to have the outcomes that they desire. In the context of hospice care, that involves assuring them as far as is possible of a good death.

**3:30 pm Adjourn**

Register:



Contact Jody Stockdill at [cep@pitt.edu](mailto:cep@pitt.edu)  
for additional information

**Friday, June 2, 2023  
9:00am-3:30pm**

**La Roche University, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA**