I knew she was suffering and I felt powerless to stop it.”

…it was hard for me to watch.

“They possibly could to keep her alive. It was hard for me to watch.

“She was resuscitated several times and I never understood why.

In her doing CPR at the doctor’s office for two hours and then for four hours more in the ICU at the hospital. She lay in the hospital for a week on an IV. She looked swollen because of all the fluid they put in her. She was hooked up to a bunch of machines.”

“She coded in my Jeep and she died right then. They worked on her doing CPR in JCPenney, since it was a public place, but when he got to the hospital they might not have put him on the ventilator.”

If he had an advance directive signed they probably still would’ve done CPR in JCPenney, since it was a public place, but when he got to the hospital they might not have put him on the ventilator.”

“She was resuscitated several times and I never understood why.

When I asked the staff why, they said they had to do everything

They have a Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) order

If they have a Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) order

Fifteen states have successfully endorsed POLST programs and twenty-one states have programs in development, including Florida

This should be followed by regulatory recognition of POLST to reassure health care providers of the validity of the forms, as well as to reassure them of their immunity from liability for good faith compliance with POLST orders

Other states should follow Florida’s lead and consider the inadequacies of their advance directives

The nation as a whole would benefit from this program, as the elderly population is expected to increase dramatically

Florida has the highest percentage of individuals 65 years or older (17%) in the nation

Florida has the sixth highest hospital care intensity index (1.177) in the country

Florida has the second highest percentage of decedents (23.1%) spending a week or more in an intensive care unit during the last 6 months of life

Florida courts have been unwilling to hold health care providers liable for noncompliance with patients’ advance directives

Data suggest that elderly patients are being subjected to unnecessary hospitalization

POLST has been studied in many different treatment settings. Studies have found the following:

Nursing home residents with POLST forms are more likely to have their preferences honored

Hospice staff report strong preferences toward the use of the POLST program

EMTs report POLST forms have changed the method of treatment in 45% of cases

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