

The IPOST Update

News from the IPOST Community Coalition

IPOST Review Course for Health Care Professionals

The IPOST team will offer a one hour review course on IPOST. The course will focus on the following key points:

1. Introduce the IPOST, its history and community impact
2. Portability of the form and processes
3. Use of the form
4. Documenting the IPOST appropriately

If you wish to schedule the review for your facility and staff, contact Jessica Musil at musiljl@crstlukes.com or 319/368-5720.

Attention Hospices!

If you have a patient that is admitted to Hospice services, review the IPOST form to ensure the current medical goals match the IPOST form.

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Upcoming IPOST Training

An IPOST Facilitator Training class has been scheduled for August 30. The location is the Administrative Conference Room at Jones Regional Medical Center in Anamosa. Please contact Jessica Musil at 368-5720 or musiljl@crstlukes.com to register. This class is being offered to area hospice programs as well as Linn and Jones County participants. If you have not yet been trained as an IPOST Facilitator, please plan to attend! The IPOST Facilitator Training includes a four-hour online module which must be completed prior to class attendance and a one-day eight-hour class.

Form portability

We recognize some IPOST forms have been lost when a patient transfers from facility to hospital and then back to the facility or facility to facility. This is an area we continue to strengthen as we identify problems in the portability of the form. Here are some reminders to help aid in successful portability of the form:

- Remember, the IPOST form belongs to the resident and must travel with the resident.
- Transfer the salmon IPOST form in a plastic sleeve with the resident. This includes transfers to hospitals, other facilities and physician visits.
 - **Do you need a sleeve?** Sleeves draw attention to the form and a sticker on the sleeve ensures its return. You can order sleeves from Briggs. Request a sticker template by emailing Jessica Musil at musiljl@crstlukes.com
- Make a copy of the IPOST form prior to transfer to use as a reference or if the IPOST is lost. Upon the resident's return to the facility, the copy must be DESTROYED.
- Staff must document the IPOST form is transferred with the resident and document the form has returned with the resident.
- If the resident is discharged to a home setting or outside of Linn and Jones Counties, send the "Out of Area IPOST" letter along with the IPOST form with the patient. This letter makes it clear the IPOST is not a valid medical order outside of a health care setting such as a hospital, physician's office or care facility, or outside the two counties.

State Advisory Council
IPOST Coalition will report to the State Advisory Council on October 28, 2011. A special newsletter will follow this meeting with advocacy information and talking points.

Medical Record Review
We have reviewed over 60 records in Linn County and will review records in Jones County in August. Data will be extrapolated, analyzed and a report generated that will be in the next newsletter and go to the State Advisory Council for deliberation in making recommendations to State Legislature and Governor.

IPOST Outcomes
1083 IPOSTs have been initiated as of August 2011 in Linn and Jones Counties. Out of the 1083 that have been created: **727** have been in facilities, **325** in the hospitals, **4** in physician offices, **7** in hospice programs, and 20 unknown.

Why is this important?
This data is used to guide medical record review and analyze the effectiveness of the pilot project. The outcome measures are critically important as they provide the data and analysis required by the Iowa Department of Public Health, the State Advisory Council, the Governor and the Iowa State Legislature.

Upcoming IPOST Evaluation

By Traci Schwieger, MA, CCRA

The IPOST Evaluation Team is currently collecting data to present to the state council in October 2011. Individual interviews are being conducted with several IPOST Facilitators. If you are interested in discussing your experience with IPOST conversations, please contact Traci Schwieger at traci-schwieger@uiowa.edu.

IPOST questionnaires are also being distributed to several Linn and Jones County EMS providers, physicians and hospital emergency room staff. The purpose of the questionnaire is to learn about staff's experience with IPOST patients.

In addition to the interviews and questionnaires, a Focus Group Session is scheduled in August with key personnel. The session's goal is to summarize the resources needed to develop and implement IPOST at the local level. This information is critical for intent to roll IPOST out to the state.

All three aspects of the Evaluation Study will be helpful in understanding the strengths and weakness of the IPOST process. If you have any questions regarding any aspect of the evaluation study, contact Traci at (traci-schwieger@uiowa.edu).

A Year in Review – Jones County IPOST

By Mary Ann Hindman

It was a sunny August day last summer when a large group of Jones County citizens gathered for lunch at Fawn Creek Country Club in response to a letter applauding them for their commitment to the quality of life and health care in Jones County. The letter also was an invitation to be part of a new project called IPOST. An informative panel from Linn County presented the history and vision of the IPOST project and extended to Jones County the challenge of becoming the rural county model for what is hoped to become a state wide initiative. **Needless to say, Jones County rose to the task!** A coalition was formed consisting of health care professionals, legal representatives, educators, entrepreneurs, and citizens committed to informed health care choices. IPOST "went live" on November 1 in Jones County. IPOST Conversations have taken place at Jones Regional Medical Center, Anamosa Care Center, Monticello Nursing and Rehab Center, and SilverCrest of Anamosa. Over the past six months, citizens have had numerous opportunities to learn about the IPOST project through presentations at hospital sponsored lunch and learn sessions, rotary clubs, senior dining, and Lions Club events. A joint educational event was held in March for Jones County Medical Family Practice and the Jones County Bar Association. The success for Jones County is simple: in one short year this rural county in the heart of Iowa embraced the IPOST project into reality. The question is now asked, "Do they have an IPOST?", when a frail elderly or chronically ill patient comes through the emergency department at Jones Regional Medical Center. The goal for Jones County is also simple: Every citizen who is appropriate for the IPOST conversations regarding care choices has the ability to complete an IPOST whether in a hospital, care facility, or home environment.