



A Message from HALO - Healthcare Advocacy and Leadership Organization



VYNCA'S DANGEROUS ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

Vynca, according to its website, is “the largest advance care planning network in the U.S.” In an article titled “[Vynca Raises \\$10.3 Million in Series B Funding](#),” Erin Dietsche writes, “Vynca technology supports education and engagement in advance care planning conversations, shared decision making, digital completion of documents, and ensures universal document accessibility for individuals, their caregivers, and health care providers across the care continuum.” Vynca partners with over 80 hospitals, numerous health plans and ACOs, and five state registries.”

How might this affect you?

To set the stage, it is important to highlight that Vynca first partnered with the Oregon POLST Registry. Physician’s Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST), a medical document used extensively throughout the U.S., reduces

complicated medical decisions to a “check the box” format. A “facilitator” asks a patient questions and checks boxes indicating whether they want a variety of treatment and care measures. After filling out the POLST, the facilitator presents it to a healthcare professional for a signature. Once signed, **it becomes medical orders that can go into effect even when a patient is fully capable of making his or her own medical decisions and/or does not have a terminal condition.** For more information on POLST, please read [“POLST: A Powerful and Dangerous Medical Document,”](#) pp. 6-7, *MAKING A DIFFERENCE*.

While Vynca’s services may sound great, the Healthcare Advocacy and Leadership Organization (HALO) is concerned that Vynca is pushing individuals to use POLST forms as their advance directives. All POLST documents are slanted toward encouraging refusal of life-saving and life-preserving treatment and care, resulting in avoidable deaths. We advise everyone to avoid signing a POLST. Instead, people should use a Medical Power of Attorney to appoint a trusted person to make medical decisions for them if they are ever unable to make their own decisions. For more information on advance directives, please read [“The Best Advance Directive: Life-Affirming Medical Power of Attorney,”](#) pp. 4-5, *MAKING A DIFFERENCE*.

Information on Vynca’s website is very revealing. Under "Problem/Solution" are listed five goals:

- Reduce expensive, unwanted healthcare interventions at end-of-life
- Reduce in-hospital deaths
- Reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and ICU utilization
- Achieve value-based metrics
- Achieve cost-savings

This list reinforces HALO’s concern that Vynca is pushing POLST for purposes that are not beneficial to patients.

HALO will continue to monitor Vynca and update readers as we receive more information.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Healthcare Advocacy and Leadership Organization is to promote, protect, and advocate for the rights of the medically vulnerable through direct patient and family interactions; through community education and awareness programs; and through promotion and development of concrete *"life-affirming healthcare"* alternatives for those facing the grave consequences of healthcare rationing and unethical practices, especially those at risk of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

"Life-affirming healthcare" is defined as medical care in which the paramount principle is the sanctity of life, which means that the life and safety of each person come first and each person receives medical care across their lifespan based on their need for care and never with an intention to hasten death, regardless of their abilities or perceived "quality of life."

