



National Patient Safety Goals

Core Competency Inservice

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Table of Contents

- Purpose of National Patient Safety Goals (NPSG)..... 3**
- Identify Patient/Residents Correctly NPSG 1..... 3**
- Improve Staff Communication NPSG 2 3**
- Use Medicines Safely NPSG 3 3**
- Alarm Management NPSG 6..... 4**
- Prevention of Infection NPSG 7..... 4**
- Residents from Falling NPSG 9..... 4**
- Identify Patient/Resident Safety Risks NPSG 15..... 5**
- Prevention of Pressure Injuries 5**
- Improve Health Care Equity NPSG16 5**
- Prevent Mistakes in Surgery UP 01 6**
- References 7**

Purpose of National Patient Safety Goals (NPSG)

The purpose of the National Patient Safety Goals is to improve patient safety. The goals focus on problems in healthcare safety and how to solve them.

Identify Patient/Residents Correctly NPSG 1

- Use at least two ways to identify patients/residents. For example, use the patient/resident's name and date of birth. This is done to make sure that each patient/resident gets the medicine and treatment meant for them.
- Make sure the correct patient/resident gets the correct blood type when they get a blood transfusion.
- Label containers for blood and other specimens in the patient's presence.
- Settings
 - Ambulatory Health Care
 - Assisted Living
 - Behavioral Health Care and Human Services
 - Critical Access Hospital
 - Hospital
 - Home Care
 - Laboratory
 - Nursing Care Center
 - Office-Based Surgery

Improve Staff Communication NPSG 2

- Quickly get important test results to the right staff person on time
- Report critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures on a timely basis
- Settings
 - Critical Access Hospital
 - Hospital
 - Laboratory

Use Medicines Safely NPSG 3

- Before a procedure, label all medications, medication containers, and other solutions not labeled before a procedure. For example, medicines in syringes, cups, and basins. Do this in the area where medicines and supplies are set up.
- Labels are to include:
 - Medication or solution name
 - Strength
 - Amount of medication or solution containing medication (if not apparent from the container)
 - Diluent name and volume (if not apparent from the container)
 - Expiration date when not used within 24 hours
 - Expiration time when expiration occurs in less than 24 hours
- Take extra care with patients who take medicines to thin their blood.

- Record and pass along correct information about patients'/residents' medications. Find out what medicines each patient/resident is taking at home. Make sure that it is OK for the patient/resident to take any new medicines with their current medicines. Give a list of the patient/resident's medicines to their next caregiver or their regular doctor, the patient/resident, and their family before they go home. Explain the medications to the patient and family.
- Settings
 - Ambulatory Health Care
 - Assisted Living
 - Behavioral Health Care and Human Services
 - Critical Access Hospital
 - Hospital
 - Home Care
 - Nursing Care Center
 - Office-Based Surgery

Alarm Management NPSG 6

- Make improvements to ensure that alarms on medical equipment are heard and responded to promptly to prevent patient injury.
- Settings
 - Hospital
 - Critical Access Hospital

Prevention of Infection NPSG 7

- Use hand washing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization. Set and use goals for improving hand cleaning.
- Use proven guidelines to prevent healthcare-associated infections due to multidrug-resistant organisms.
- Use proven guidelines to prevent infections of the blood from central lines.
- Use proven guidelines to prevent infections after surgery.
- Use proven guidelines to prevent infections of the urinary tract that are caused by catheters.
- Settings
 - Ambulatory Health Care
 - Assisted Living
 - Behavioral Health Care and Human Services
 - Critical Access Hospital
 - Hospital
 - Home Care
 - Laboratory
 - Nursing Care Center
 - Office-Based Surgery

Residents from Falling NPSG 9

- Reduce the risk of patient harm resulting from falls.

- Find out which patient/resident is most likely to fall (for example, is the patient/resident taking any medicines that might make them weak, dizzy, or sleepy) and take appropriate actions to prevent falls.
- Settings
 - Assisted Living
 - Home Care
 - Nursing Care Center

Prevention of Pressure Injuries NPSG 14

- All patients admitted to Joint Commission-certified facilities must have a skin assessment. A standardized scale, e.g., the Braden scale, assigns points to each risk factor.
- If the patient/resident is deemed "at risk," the plan of care goal is to prevent skin breakdown.
- If the patient/resident is admitted with a skin breakdown, the plan of care goal is to "heal" or not let the breakdown "get worse."
- Settings
 - Nursing Care Center

Identify Patient/Resident Safety Risks NPSG 15

- Identify safety risks inherent in the patient/resident population.
- Find out which patient/residents are most likely to try to commit suicide.
- Settings
 - Hospital
 - Critical Access Hospital
 - Behavioral Health Care and Human Services
- Find out if there are any risks for patients/residents who are getting oxygen. For example, fires in the patient/resident's home.
- Settings
 - Home Care

Improve Health Care Equity NPSG16

- Improving health care equity is a priority for quality and patient safety. For example, healthcare disparities in the patient population are identified, and a written plan describes ways to improve healthcare equity.
- Identify an individual to lead activities to improve healthcare equity
- Assess the patient's health-related social needs
- Analyze quality and safety data to identify disparities
- Develop an action plan to improve healthcare equity

- Take action when the organization does not meet the goals in its action plan
- Inform key stakeholders about progress in improving health care equity
- Settings
 - Ambulatory Health Care Organizations
 - Behavioral Health Care and Human Services Organizations
 - Critical Access Hospitals
 - Hospitals

Prevent Mistakes in Surgery UP 01

- Make sure the correct surgery is done on the correct patient and at the correct place on the patient's body.
- Mark the correct place on the patient's body where surgery is to be done.
- Take a time-out before the surgery to make sure that a mistake is not being made.
- Settings
 - Ambulatory Health Care
 - Critical Access Hospital
 - Hospital
 - Office-Based Surgery

References

National Patient Safety Goals

<https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/national-patient-safety-goals/>

<https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/standards/national-patient-safety-goals/2023/hap-npsg-simplified-2023-july.pdf>