

# 2008 Home Care National Patient Safety Goals

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

## Identify patients correctly

Use at least two ways to identify patients. For example, use the patient's name and date of birth. This is done to make sure that each patient gets the medicine and treatment meant for them.

Ask the patient and staff questions to make sure that the treatment being done is the correct one. Make sure that the treatment will be done at the correct place on the patient's body.

## Improve staff communication

Read back spoken or phone orders to the person who gave the order.

Create a list of abbreviations and symbols that are not to be used.

Quickly get important test results to the right staff person.

Create steps for staff to follow when sending patients to the next caregiver. The steps should help staff tell about the patient's care. Make sure there is time to ask and answer questions.

## Use medicines safely

Create a list of medicines with names that look alike or sound alike. Update the list every year.

Take extra care with patients who take medicines to thin their blood.

## Prevent infection

Use the hand cleaning guidelines from the World Health Organization or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Report death or injury to patients from infections that happen in health care organizations.

## Check patient medicines

Find out what medicines each patient is taking. Make sure that it is OK for the patient to take any new medicines with their current medicines.

Give a list of the patient's medicines to the patient's next caregiver. Give this same list to the patient before they leave the organization.

## Prevent patients from falling

Find out which patients are most likely to fall. For example, is the patient taking any medicines that might make them weak, dizzy or sleepy? Take action to prevent falls for these patients.

## Help patients to be involved in their care

Tell each patient and their family how to report their complaints about safety.

## Identify patient safety risks

Find out if there are any risks for patients who are getting oxygen. For example, fires in the patient's home.

