

2008 Behavioral Health 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 clients correctly

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

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 clients to the next caregiver. The steps should help staff tell about the client'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.

Prevent infection

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

Report death or injury to clients from infections that happen in the organization.

Check client medicines

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

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

Help clients to be involved in their care

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

Identify client safety risks

Find out which clients are most likely to try to kill themselves.

