

2008 Ambulatory 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.

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.

Label all medicines that are not already labeled. For example, medicines in syringes, cups and basins.

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 the facility.

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 facility.

Prevent fires during surgery

Remind staff about the dangers of fire during surgery. Fire can be caused by lasers and other heated equipment. Some fluids and gasses can catch fire. Ask staff to use less oxygen under sheets and blankets around the patient.

Help patients to be involved in their care

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

