

2008 National Patient Safety Goals Networks

National Patient Safety Goals

This chapter addresses the 2008 National Patient Safety Goals, requirements, and implementation expectations. The purpose of The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals is to promote specific improvements in patient safety. The goals highlight problematic areas in health care and describe evidence and expert-based consensus to solutions to these problems. Recognizing that sound system design is intrinsic to the delivery of safe, high quality health care, the goals generally focus on system-wide solutions, wherever possible.

A broadly representative Sentinel Event Advisory Group works with Joint Commission staff on a continuing basis to prioritize and develop goals, requirements, and implementation expectations. As part of this development process, candidate goals, requirements, and implementation expectations are sent to the field for review and comment. The Advisory Group annually recommends selected existing and new goals, requirements, and implementation expectations to the Joint Commission's Board of Commissioners for review and approval.

If an organization thinks that an alternative approach meets the intent of the requirement and wishes to implement such an alternative, the organization must obtain Joint Commission approval of the alternative. The Sentinel Event Advisory Group also assists the Joint Commission in evaluating potential alternatives to goal requirements that have been suggested by individual organizations.

Organizations providing care, treatment, and services relevant to these goals are responsible for implementing the applicable requirements or effective alternatives. Compliance with these requirements is assessed throughout the accreditation cycle, through on-site surveys, and the Periodic Performance Review (PPR).¹ When an organization does not fully comply with a requirement, the organization will be assigned a requirement for improvement in the same way that noncompliance with an element of performance generates a requirement for improvement at a standard. All requirements for improvement must be addressed in an Evidence of Standards Compliance (ESC) Report. Failure to resolve a requirement for improvement affects an organization's accreditation decision, which could ultimately lead to a loss of accreditation.

The Joint Commission provides guidance on how to effectively comply with each goal's requirements. This guidance includes detailed answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), which are posted on the Joint Commission Web site (<http://www.jointcommission.org>).

Goals 1 through 11 Not applicable

¹ For those programs required to complete a PPR.

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Goal 12

Implementation of applicable National Patient Safety Goals and associated requirements by components and practitioner sites.

Requirement 12A

Inform and encourage components and practitioner sites to implement the applicable National Patient Safety Goals and associated requirements.

Implementation Expectations for Requirement 12A

(M) C 1. Organizations inform and encourage components and practitioner sites to implement the applicable National Patient Safety Goals and associated requirements.