

2009 Long Term 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 residents correctly

Use at least two ways to identify residents. For example, use the resident's name and date of birth. This is done to make sure that each resident 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 resident'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 residents to the next caregiver. The steps should help staff tell about the resident's care. Make sure there is time to ask and answer questions.

Prevent infection

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

Report death or injury to residents from infections that happen in the facility.

Use proven guidelines to prevent infection of the blood.

Help residents to be involved in their care

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

Check resident medicines

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

Give a list of the resident's medicines to their next caregiver. Give the list to the resident's regular doctor before the resident goes home.

Give a list of the resident's medicines to the resident and their family before they go home. Explain the list.

Some residents may get medicine in small amounts or for a short time. Make sure that it is OK for those residents to take those medicines with their current medicines.

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 residents who take medicines to thin their blood.

Prevent residents from falling

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

Prevent older adults from getting the flu and pneumonia

Create steps for staff to follow to give flu shots. The steps should include making a record of the shot.

Create steps for staff to follow to give pneumonia shots. The steps should include making a record of the shot.

Create steps for staff to follow to help identify new cases of flu. The steps should include what to do when there is an outbreak of flu.

Prevent bed sores

Find out which residents are most likely to have bed sores. Take action to prevent bed sores in these patients. From time to time, re-check residents for bed sores.

