

2008 Assisted Living 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.

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.

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.

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 the resident's next caregiver. Give this same list to the resident before they leave the facility.

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.

Help residents to be involved in their care

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

