

National Patient Safety Goals®

January 2024



Background

- The National Patient Safety Goals® (NPSGs) were established in 2002 to help accredited organizations address specific areas of concern in regard to patient safety
- The first set of NPSGs was effective January 1, 2003
- The Joint Commission determines the highest priority patient safety issues, including NPSGs, from input from practitioners, provider organizations, purchasers, consumer groups, and other stakeholders

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Patient Identification

Goal 1:

Improve the accuracy of patient identification.

Patient Identification

NPSG.01.01.01: Use at least two patient identifiers when providing care, treatment and services.

Applies to: Ambulatory, Assisted Living Community, Behavioral Health and Human Services, Critical Access Hospital, Home Care, Hospital, Laboratory, Nursing Care Center, Office-Based Surgery

Improve Communication

Goal 2:

Improve the effectiveness of communication among caregivers.

Improve Communication

NPSG.02.03.01: Report critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures on a timely basis.

Applies to: Critical Access Hospital, Hospital, Laboratory

Medication Safety

Goal 3:

Improve the safety of using medications.

Medication Safety

NPSG.03.04.01: Label all medications, medication containers, and other solutions on and off the sterile field in perioperative and other procedural settings. Note: Medication containers include syringes, medicine cups and basins.

Applies to: Ambulatory, Critical Access Hospital, Hospital, Office Based Surgery

Medication Safety

NPSG.03.05.01: Reduce the likelihood of patient harm associated with the use of anticoagulant therapy. Note: This requirement does not apply to routine situations in which short-term prophylactic anticoagulation is used for preventing venous thromboembolism (for example, related to procedures or hospitalization).

Applies to: Ambulatory, Critical Access Hospital, Hospital, Nursing Care Center

Medication Safety

NPSG.03.06.01: Maintain and communicate accurate patient medication information.

Applies to: Ambulatory, Assisted Living Community, Behavioral Health and Human Services, Critical Access Hospital, Home Care, Hospital, Nursing Care Center, Office-Based Surgery

Clinical Alarm Safety

Goal 6:

Reduce patient harm associated with clinical alarm systems.

Clinical Alarm Safety

NPSG.06.01.01: Improve the safety of clinical alarm systems.

Applies to: Critical Access Hospital, Hospital

Health Care-Associated Infections

Goal 7:

Reduce the risk of health care-associated infections.

Health Care-Associated Infections

NPSG.07.01.01: Comply with either the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hand hygiene guidelines or the current World Health Organization (WHO) hand hygiene guidelines.

Applies to: Ambulatory, Assisted Living Community, Behavioral Health and Human Services, Critical Access Hospital, Home Care, Hospital, Laboratory, Nursing Care Center, Office-Based Surgery

Reduce Falls

Goal 9:

Reduce the risk of patient harm resulting from falls.

Reduce Falls

NPSG.09.02.01: Reduce the risk of falls.

Applies to: Assisted Living Community, Home Care, Nursing Care Center

Pressure Ulcers

Goal 14:

Prevent health care-associated pressure ulcers (decubitus ulcers).

Pressure Ulcers

NPSG.14.01.01: Assess and periodically reassess each patient's and resident's risk for either developing a pressure injury or worsening of their existing pressure injury. Take action to any identified risks.

Applies to: Nursing Care Center

Risk Assessment

Goal 15:

The organization identifies safety risks inherent in its patient population.

Risk Assessment

NPSG.15.01.01: Reduce the risk for suicide.

Note: EPs 2-7 apply to patients in psychiatric hospitals or patients being evaluated or treated for behavioral health conditions as their primary reason for care. In addition, EPs 3-7 apply to all patients who express suicidal ideation during the course of care.

*Applies to: Behavioral Health and Human Services,
Critical Access Hospital, Hospital*

Risk Assessment

NPSG.15.02.01: Identify risks associated with home oxygen therapy, such as home fires.

Applies to: Home Care

Health Care Equity

Goal 16:

Improve health care equity.

Health Care Equity

NPSG.16.01.01: Improving health care equity for the organization's patients is a quality and safety priority.

Applies to: Ambulatory, Behavioral Health and Human Services, Critical Access Hospital, Hospital

Universal Protocol for Preventing Wrong Site, Wrong Procedure, Wrong Person Surgery

UP.01.01.01: Conduct a preprocedure verification process.

Applies to: Ambulatory, Critical Access Hospital, Hospital, Office-Based Surgery

Universal Protocol for Preventing Wrong Site, Wrong Procedure, Wrong Person Surgery

UP.01.02.01: Mark the procedure site.

Applies to: Ambulatory, Critical Access Hospital, Hospital, Office-Based Surgery

Universal Protocol for Preventing Wrong Site, Wrong Procedure, Wrong Person Surgery

UP.01.03.01: A time-out is performed before the procedure.

Applies to: Ambulatory, Critical Access Hospital, Hospital, Office-Based Surgery

For more information...

The National Patient Safety Goals® for each program and more information are available on The Joint Commission website at

www.jointcommission.org

Questions can be sent to the Standards Interpretation Group at 630-792-5900 or via the [Standards Online Question Form](#)

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