

National Patient Safety Goals®

Effective January 2024 for the Laboratory Program

Goal 1

Improve the accuracy of patient identification.



NPSG.01.01.01

Use at least two patient identifiers when providing laboratory services.

--Rationale for NPSG.01.01.01--

Wrong-patient errors occur in virtually all stages of diagnosis and treatment. The intent for this goal is two-fold: first, to reliably identify the individual as the person for whom the service or treatment is intended; second, to match the service or treatment to that individual. Acceptable identifiers may be the individual's name, an assigned identification number, telephone number, or other person-specific identifier.

Element(s) of Performance for NPSG.01.01.01

1. Use at least two patient identifiers when administering blood or blood components; when collecting blood samples and other specimens for clinical testing; and when providing other treatments or procedures. The patient's room number or physical location is not used as an identifier.
Note: An example of "other procedures" includes bone marrow aspirates. 
2. Label containers used for blood and other specimens in the presence of the patient. 

Goal 2

Improve the effectiveness of communication among caregivers.




NPSG.02.03.01

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

--Rationale for NPSG.02.03.01--

Critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures fall significantly outside the normal range and may indicate a life-threatening situation. The objective is to provide the responsible licensed caregiver these results within an established time frame so that the patient can be promptly treated.

Element(s) of Performance for NPSG.02.03.01

1. Collaborate with organization leaders to develop and implement written procedures for managing the critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures that address the following:
 - The definition of critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures
 - By whom and to whom critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures are reported
 - The acceptable length of time between the availability and reporting of critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures 
3. Evaluate the timeliness of reporting the critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures. 

Goal 7

Reduce the risk of health care-associated infections.

NPSG.07.01.01

