## National Patient Safety Goals

The purpose of the National Patient Safety Goals is to improve patient safety. The goals focus on problems in healthcare safety and how to solve them.

### Identify residents correctly

Use at least two ways to identify patients or residents. For example, use the patient’s or resident’s name and date of birth. This is done to make sure that each patient or resident gets the correct medicine and treatment.

### Use medicines safely

- **NPSG.03.05.01**
  - Take extra care with patients and residents who take medicines to thin their blood.
- **NPSG.03.06.01**
  - Record and pass along correct information about a patient’s or resident's medicines. Find out what medicines the patient or resident is taking. Compare those medicines to new medicines given to the patient or resident. Make sure the patient or resident knows which medicines to take when they are at home. Tell the patient or resident it is important to bring their up-to-date list of medicines every time they visit a doctor.

### Prevent infection

- **NPSG.07.01.01**
  - Use the hand cleaning guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization. Set goals for improving hand cleaning. Use the goals to improve hand cleaning.
- **NPSG.07.03.01**
  - Use proven guidelines to prevent infections that are difficult to treat.
- **NPSG.07.04.01**
  - Use proven guidelines to prevent infection of the blood from central lines.
- **NPSG.07.06.01**
  - Use proven guidelines to prevent infections of the urinary tract that are caused by catheters.

### Prevent residents from falling

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

### Prevent bed sores

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