

National Patient Safety Goals®

January 2021



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

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, Behavioral Health Care, 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.
- *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.
- *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, Behavioral Health Care, 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, Behavioral Health Care, 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: 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 developing a pressure ulcer and take action to address 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.
- *Applies to: Behavioral Health Care, 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*

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](#)