API HEALTHCARE

*Experts in optimizing human capital*

# NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETYGOALS

## Core Competency Reading Material

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## Identify Patients/Residents Correctly

Use at least two ways to identify patient/residents. For example, use the patient/resident's name and date of birth. This is done to make sure that each patient/resident gets the medicine and treatment meant for them.

Make sure that the correct patient/resident gets the correct blood type when they get a blood transfusion.

## Improve Staff communication

Quickly get important test results to the right staff person on time.

## Use Medicines Safely

Label all medicines that are not already labeled. For example, medicines in syringes, cups and basins.

Take extra care with patient/residents who take medicines to thin their blood. Blood thinners such as Coumadin, Lovenox and Heparin have many drug and food interactions.

Record and pass along correct information about patient/resident's medications. Find out what medicines each patient/resident is taking at home. Make sure that it is OK for the patient/resident to take any new medicines with their current medicines. Give a list of the patient/resident's medicines to their next caregiver or to their regular doctor before the patient/resident goes home. Give a list of the patient/resident's medicines to the patient/resident and their family before they go home. Explain the list.

## Prevent Infection

Use hand washing guidelines from Center for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization.

Use proven guidelines to prevent infections that are difficult to treat.

Use proven guidelines to prevent infection of the blood from central lines.

Use proven guidelines to prevent infection after surgery.

Use proven guidelines to prevent infections of the urinary tract that are caused by catheters.

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## Identify Patient/Resident Safety Risks

Find out which patient/residents are most likely to try to commit suicide.

Find out if there are any risks for patient/residents who are getting oxygen. For example, fires in the patient/resident's home. (Home Care)

## Prevent Patients/Residents from Falling

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

## Prevent Bed Sores

Find out which residents are most likely to have bed sores. Take action to prevent bed sores in these patient/residents. From time to time, re-check residents for bed sores. (Long Term Care)

## Prevent Mistakes in Surgery

Make sure the correct surgery is done on the correct patient and at the correct place on the patient's body.

Mark the correct place on the patient's body where surgery is to be done.

Pause before the surgery to make sure that a mistake is not being made.

## Alarm Management

Make improvements to ensure that alarms on medical equipment are heard and responded to on time.

## Reference

Patient Safety Systems Chapter for the Hospital Program. December 2015.
http://www.jointcommission.org/topics/patient_safety.aspx

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