

2011 Hospital National Patient Safety Goals

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

Identify patients correctly

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

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

Improve staff communication

Quickly get important test results to the right staff person.

Use medicines safely

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

Take extra care with patients who take medicines to thin their blood.

Prevent infection

Use the hand cleaning guidelines from the Centers 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 safe practices to treat the part of the body where surgery was done.

Check patient medicines

Find out what medicines each patient is taking. Make sure that it is OK for the patient to take any new medicines with their current medicines.

Note: This goal is effective July 1, 2011.

Give a list of the patient's medicines to their next caregiver or to their regular doctor before the patient goes home.

Give a list of the patient's medicines to the patient and their family before they go home. Explain the list.

Some patients may get medicine in small amounts or for a short time. Make sure that it is OK for those patients to take those medicines with their current medicines.

Identify patient safety risks

Find out which patients are most likely to try to commit suicide.



This is an easy-to-read document. It has been created for the public. The exact language of the Goals can be found at www.jointcommission.org.