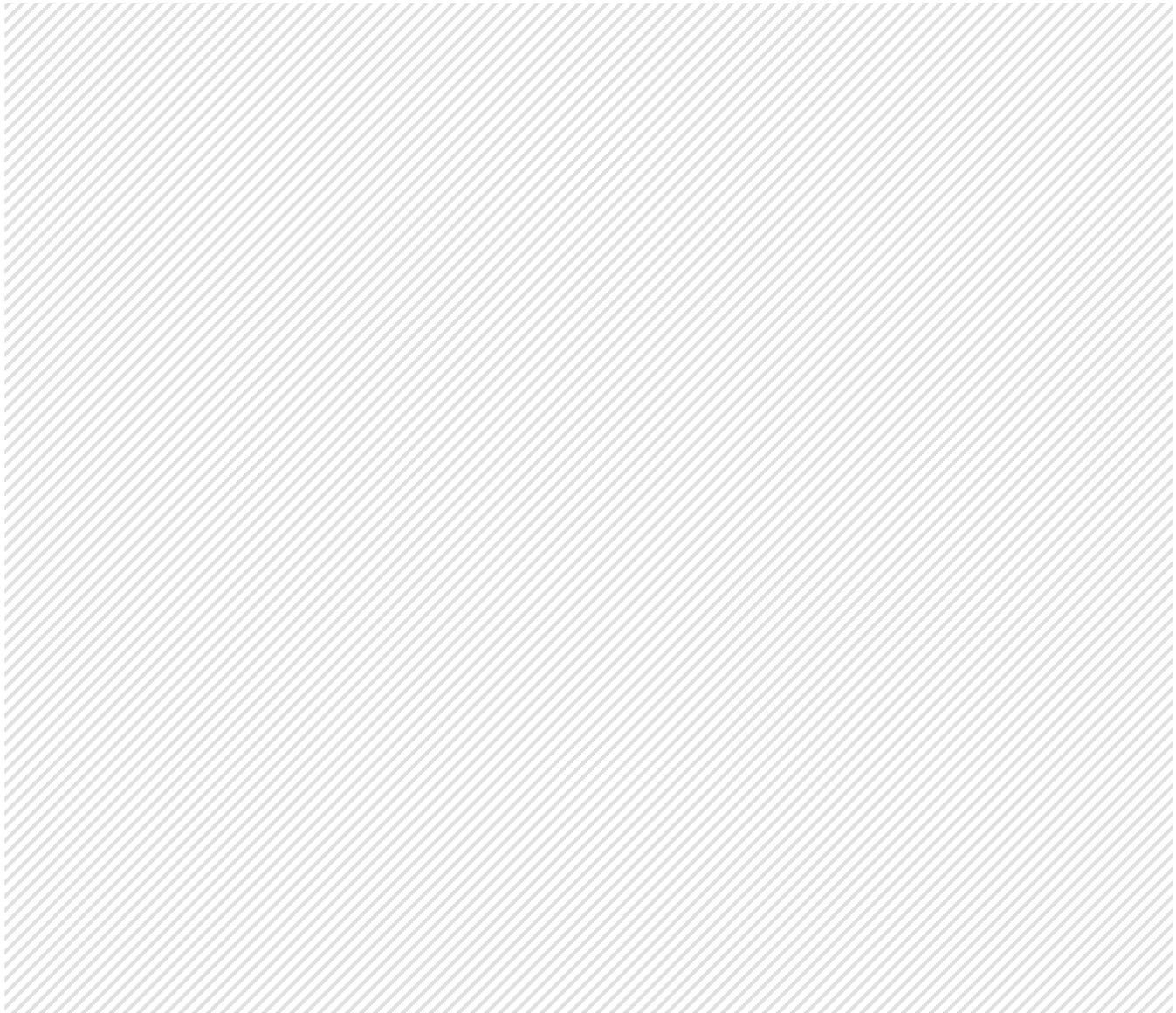


# National Patient Safety Goals

## Core Competency Inservice

January 2020



This guide may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, in whole or in part, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recorded, or otherwise, without the prior written consent of HealthcareSource HR, Inc. The information in this guide is subject to change without notice. HealthcareSource HR, Inc. assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors, omissions, assumptions, or any conclusions drawn from this guide. All other third-party trademarks mentioned in this publication are the property of their respective owner.

---

# Table of Contents

Identify Patient/Residents Correctly.....	3
Improve Staff Communication .....	3
Use Medicines Safely.....	3
Alarm Management .....	3
Prevent Infection .....	3
Identify Patient/Resident Safety Risks .....	4
Prevent Patient/Residents from Falling .....	4
Prevent Pressure Ulcers .....	4
Prevent Mistakes in Surgery .....	4
References.....	4

---

## Identify Patient/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
- Report critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures on a timely basis

## Use Medicines Safely

- Before a procedure, label all medications, medication containers, and other solutions that are not labelled before a procedure. For example, medicines in syringes, cups and basins. Do this in the area where medicines and supplies are set up.
- Take extra care with patients who take medicines to thin their blood.
- 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 medications to the patient and family.

## Alarm Management

- Make improvements to ensure that alarms on medical equipment are heard and responded to in a timely manner to prevent patient injury.

## Prevention of Infection

- Use hand washing guidelines from Center for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization. Set goals for improving hand cleaning. Use the goals to improve hand cleaning.
- Use proven guidelines to prevent health care-associated infections due to multidrug-resistant organisms.
- 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.

---

## Identify Patient/Resident Safety Risks

- Identify safety risks inherent in the patient/resident population.
- 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 Patient/Residents from Falling

- Reduce the risk of patient harm resulting from falls.
- Find out which patient/residents are most likely to fall (for example, is the patient/resident taking any medicines that might make them weak, dizzy or sleepy) and take appropriate actions to prevent falls.

## Prevention of Pressure Ulcers

- Assess patients/residents for risk for developing pressure injury/ulcers and take actions to address any identified risks. From time to time, re-check residents for pressure ulcers (Long Term Care).
- Find out which patients and residents are most likely to develop or have pressure injury/ulcers.
- Take action to prevent pressure injury in these patients and residents. From time to time, re-check patients and residents for pressure injury/ulcers.

## 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.

## References

**National Patient Safety Goals: Easy to read versions. November 2020.**  
[http://www.jointcommission.org/standards\\_information/npsgs.aspx](http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/npsgs.aspx)