

Patient Safety Focus

TOP 10 ISSUES FOR 2021

The Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety developed *Patient Safety Focus: Top 10 Issues for 2021*, a white paper that offers extensive resources for members. The top issues emerged from over 55,000 submitted events, expert input, literature review and shared learnings.



1 DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

Failure to close the loop on diagnostic tests is a major factor in diagnostic error, resulting in missed or delayed diagnoses and delays in needed care. Closed-loop communication is essential to patient safety.

2 DIABETES MANAGEMENT

An estimated one in 10 American adults has diabetes. Primary care providers play a pivotal role in the outcomes of diabetic patients, especially with over 90% of diabetes care delivered in ambulatory care settings.

3 SAFE PATIENT TRANSFERS

Research shows that the seemingly simple task of moving a patient to another healthcare facility can lead to adverse events and higher hospital readmission rates and costs.

4 SAFE TELEMEDICINE

The safety of telemedicine has not been studied extensively, which calls on providers to anticipate potential adverse events and extend patient safety processes to televisits.



5 BIRTH EQUITY

Maternal mortality in the U.S. most impacts Black, low-income and rural women. Achieving birth equity requires sustained effort to address racial and social inequities.

6 COVID BURNOUT SUPPORT

Caring for patients during COVID-19 has taken a significant toll on frontline healthcare workers. Clinician support is paramount, as burnout is linked to medical errors.



7 MEDICATION RECONCILIATION

Implementing medication reconciliation in inpatient and outpatient settings can prevent adverse drug events. An accurate list of all patient medications is key.

8 PAIN STEWARDSHIP

Pain stewardship programs are designed to optimize the safe and effective treatment of patients with acute and chronic pain—and reduce the misuse of prescription opioids.

9 SAFE VACCINATION

Patient safety errors can occur with clinically safe and effective vaccines due to look-alike vaccine names, mixing/dilution errors and unsegregated refrigerator/freezer storage.

10 PATIENT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Engaging patients and family members in health system redesign is central to effective patient- and family-centered care, which can improve healthcare quality and safety.



Join MAPS PSO in addressing these key patient safety issues

Founded in 2010, the Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety is a federally certified Patient Safety Organization and a wholly owned, non-profit subsidiary of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association. MAPS members benefit from federal protections, confidential data submission and our supportive PSO community.

The annual white paper and all MAPS services are part of membership.

Together, we can enhance patient safety. Become a member.

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