

NCPS Mission: To continuously improve the safety and quality of healthcare delivery in the region.

NCPS Update: April 2023

A Message from the Executive Director

Emily Barr, OTD, MBA, OTR/L, BCG



In March, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) published its annual *National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report Chartbook on Patient Safety*. One of the six priority areas identified in the report is “making care safer by reducing harm caused in the delivery of care.” AHRQ listed three patient safety goals:

- Reduce preventable hospital admissions and readmissions
- Reduce the incidence of adverse healthcare-associated conditions
- Reduce harm from inappropriate or unnecessary care

Reducing preventable harm requires a coordinated, systems approach to safety. The *Safer Together: A National Action Plan to Advance Patient Safety* report centers on four foundational areas that are integral to a systems approach to safety:

- Culture, Leadership, and Governance
- Patient and Family Engagement
- Workforce Safety
- Learning System

NCPS supports member organizations in their efforts to develop a systems approach to patient safety. This systems approach begins with an assessment of patient safety culture using AHRQ's Surveys on Patient Safety Culture. NCPS conducts and interprets these survey results for members and non-members. Effective interpretation of survey results provides a roadmap for improvement among senior leaders, managers, and frontline staff. This training includes three foci: (1) Just Culture training for senior leaders, providers and managers; (2) teamwork training for all staff; and (3) training to conduct thorough, credible, and acceptable root cause analyses for quality improvement/risk management/patient safety staff.

Contact NCPS for help to develop a plan to improve the systems approach to patient safety in your organization.

This month's learning resource is a Reporting Committee Summary. The event reviewed was a patient fall that occurred in a psychiatric unit. There are numerous practical resources incorporated in the "Mitigating Risks Associated with Patient Falls" section of the resource. UNMC's CAPTURE Falls team contributed to these resources. The safety alert may be found on the NCPS website within the Educational Resources in our members only [portal](#).

NCPS Member Update - What You Need to Know

Congratulations to NCPS Members Earning Healthgrades 2023 Patient Safety Excellence Award

- Bellevue Medical Center – Bellevue
- CHI Health Good Samaritan - Kearney
- Ortho Nebraska - Omaha

This award recognizes hospitals in the top 10% in the nation for patient safety with the lowest occurrences of 14 preventable patient safety events.

Learning Opportunities for NCPS Members

NCPS Webinar: An Interactive Conversation for All Healthcare Workers: Patient Safety Considerations for LGBTQ+ Patients

April 26 5pm - 6pm

April 28th 12 - 1pm

LGBTQ+ community members experience healthcare disparities and access challenges which are patient safety concerns. Dr. Russ Buzalko, PhD, MAS, Director, Office of Education at Childrens Hospital and Medical Center Omaha, will lead a conversation intended to help participants better understand the challenges LGBTQ+ populations face when accessing healthcare and what actions may be taken to address those concerns. We are offering this webinar at two times so that any healthcare worker who may interact with LGBTQ+ patients may attend. NCPS members may register [here](#).

NCPS Webinar: PSES Foundations and Legal Brief

May 17 12 - 1 pm

Peggy Binzer, the Executive Director of the Alliance for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (AQIPS) will summarize essential steps needed to establish a Patient Safety Evaluation System (PSES). A functioning PSES is essential to receive the confidentiality and privilege protections conferred by membership in a Patient Safety Organization. Ms. Binzer will also provide an update on recent case law that may affect Patient Safety Organizations. NCPS members may register [here](#).

CHI Health and Molina Healthcare Sponsored Webinar: Rural Maternal Health Training Program

April 18 12:00 - 1:00pm CT Perinatal Mental Health Overview: Prevalence, Screening, and Diagnosis

May 2 12:00 - 1:00pm CT Management and Treatment of Mental Health Presentations in Pregnancy and Postpartum

Register [here](#) for the event.

Patient Safety Authority Sponsored Webinar: Emergency Delirium Treatment & Prevention

April 19 10am - 11am CT

Emergency delirium is a temporary but potentially dangerous condition that may occur when a patient awakens after a procedure. Staff at the VA Pittsburg Healthcare System will share how they implemented a perioperative intervention to reduce the risk of patient and staff harm. They will discuss the process for screening patients, their medication strategy, and their methods to treat emergency delirium. Register [here](#) for the webinar.

HHS Series on National Action Alliance to Advance Patient Safety

April 25 1pm - 2pm CT

This is the first in a series of webinars about HHS' emerging efforts to support healthcare delivery systems' move toward zero harm. AHRQ Director, Robert Otto Valdez, PhD, MHSA, will highlight activities of the National Action Alliance to Advance Patient Safety. You may register [here](#).

CMS Quality Conference 2023: Building Resilient Communities

May 1 - 3

CMS is hosting their annual virtual healthcare quality convention with this year's title "Building Resilient Communities". One of their key agenda topics is Behavioral Health Quality Improvement which will include two presentations, "Best Practices in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Services" and "New Opportunities for Advancing Chronic Pain Care". Other key agenda topics include Dentistry and Oral Health Quality Improvement and Climate Change. There is no cost to attend and you may register [here](#).

Iowa Western Community College: Mental Health Conference 2023

May 4 7:30am - 5pm

May 5 7:30am - 4pm

All healthcare providers are invited to attend and hear from local mental health experts. Attendees will be awarded 14.5 CE contact hours. The cost is \$195 per person and includes beverages and lunch. Register [here](#).

Patient Safety Resources

Frontline nurses' clinical judgment in recognizing, understanding, and responding to patient deterioration: a qualitative study.

Hospitals worldwide have implemented early warning systems and rapid response teams to facilitate early recognition and response to patient deterioration. Unfortunately, evidence suggests that these interventions have made little impact largely because they depend on a nurse recognizing at risk patients and initiating a timely response. Nurses must notice, integrate, and respond to information about the patient within the context of the environment. Health care systems should consider how their organization supports nurses in the three steps of noticing, integrating, and responding to patient deterioration. The abstract may be found [here](#).

COVID- 19 Resources & Research

Comparison of Postpartum Opioid Prescriptions Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic

A recent paper published in JAMA Open network looked at postpartum opioid prescription rates before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. This analysis was of interest because of the public safety concerns in the U.S. related to the overuse and misuse of opioid analgesics; and during the pandemic routine health care was disrupted and existing barriers to health care access were heightened. These researchers found that pre-COVID reductions in reductions in opioid prescriptions for postpartum patients were lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. The original paper may be found [here](#).

For more information about NCPS and the services we offer, please contact Carla Snyder MT(ASCP)SBB, MHA, Patient Safety Program Director at: carlasnyder@unmc.edu

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