

2011 Home Care 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.

Prevent infection Use the hand cleaning guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization.

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.

Give a list of the patient's medicines to their next caregiver. Give the list to the patient's 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.

Prevent patients from falling Find out which patients are most likely to fall. For example, is the patient taking any medicines that might make them weak, dizzy or sleepy? Take action to prevent falls for these patients.

Identify patient safety risks Find out if there are any risks for patients who are getting oxygen. For example, fires in the patient's home.

