



International
Patient Safety Goals
(IPSG)

International Patient Safety Goals (IPSG)

JOINT COMMISSION INTERNATIONAL
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR
HOSPITALS

4th Edition



Joint Commission
International

Effective
1 January
2011

Contents

Foreword.....v

Section I: Patient-Centered Standards

International Patient Safety Goals (IPSG).....

Access to Care and Continuity of Care (ACC)

Patient and Family Rights (PFR).....

Assessment of Patients (AOP)

Care of Patients (COP)

Anesthesia and Surgical Care (ASC)

Medication Management and Use (MMU)

Patient and Family Education (PFE).....

Standards ..

International Patient Safety Goals (IPSG)

- ◆ To promote specific improvements in patient safety
- ◆ Highlight problematic areas in health care
- ◆ Describe evidence- and expert-based consensus solutions to these problems

International Patient Safety Goals (IPSG)

- 1. Identify Patients Correctly**
- 2. Improve Effective Communication**
- 3. Improve the Safety of High-Alert Medications**
- 4. Ensure Correct-Site, Correct-Procedure, Correct-Patient Surgery**
- 5. Reduce the Risk of Health Care-Associated Infections**
- 6. Reduce the Risk of Patient Harm Resulting from Falls**

IPSG. 1 Identify Patients Correctly

- o Using **two** patient identifiers, not including patient's room or location
- o **Before administering** medications, blood, or blood products
- o **Before taking** blood and other specimens for clinical testing
- o **Before providing** treatments and procedures
- o Policies and **procedures** support consistent practice in all situations and locations

IPSG.2 Improve Effective Communication

- o The complete verbal and telephone order or test result is written down by the receiver of the order or test result.
- o The complete verbal and telephone order or test result is read back by the receiver of the order or test result.
- o The order or test result is confirmed by the individual who gave the order or test result.

IPSG.2 Improve Effective Communication

- o The complete verbal and telephone order or test result is written down by the receiver of the order or test result.
- o The complete verbal and telephone order or test result is read back by the receiver of the order or test result.
- o The order or test result is confirmed by the individual who gave the order or test result.

IPSG.3 Improve the Safety of High-Alert Medications

High-Alert Medications are

- o Medications involved in a high percentage of errors and/or sentinel events
- o Medications that carry a higher risk for adverse outcomes
- o Look-alike/sound-alike medications

IPSG.3 Improve the Safety of High-Alert Medications

- o Policies and/or **procedures** are developed to address the **identification**, **location**, **labeling**, and **storage** of high-alert medications.
- o The policies and/or procedures are implemented.

IPSG.3 Improve the Safety of High-Alert Medications

- o Concentrated electrolytes are not present in patient care units unless clinically necessary, and actions are taken to prevent inadvertent administration in those areas where permitted by policy.
- o Concentrated electrolytes that are stored in patient care units are clearly labeled and stored in manner that restricts access to restricted areas.

IPSG.4 Ensure Correct-Site, Correct-Procedure, Correct-Patient Surgery

- Uses an instantly recognized mark for surgical-site identification and involves the patient in the marking process.
- Uses a checklist or other process to verify preoperatively the correct site, correct procedure, and correct patient and that all documents and equipment needed are on hand, correct, and functional.

IPSG.4 Ensure Correct-Site, Correct-Procedure, Correct-Patient Surgery

- o The **full** surgical team conducts and documents a **time-out** procedure **just before starting** a surgical procedure.
- o Policies and procedures are developed that support uniform process to ensure the correct site, correct procedure, and correct patient, including **medical and dental procedures** done in settings other than the operating theatre.

IPSG.5 Reduce the Risk of Health Care-Associated Infections

- o The organization has adopted or adapted currently published and generally accepted **hand-hygiene** guidelines.
- o The organization implements an effective hand-hygiene program.
- o Policies and/or procedures are developed that support continued reduction of **health care-associated infections**.

IPSG.6 Reduce the Risk of Patient Harm Resulting from Falls

- o Implements a process for the **initial assessment** of patients for fall risk and **reassessment** of patients when indicated by a change in condition or medications, among others.
- o Measures are implemented to reduce fall risk for those assessed to be at risk.
- o Measured are **monitored** for results, both successful fall injury reduction and any unintended related **consequences**.

International Patient Safety Goals (IPSG)

- 1. Identify Patients Correctly**
- 2. Improve Effective Communication**
- 3. Improve the Safety of High-Alert Medications**
- 4. Ensure Correct-Site, Correct-Procedure, Correct-Patient Surgery**
- 5. Reduce the Risk of Health Care-Associated Infections**
- 6. Reduce the Risk of Patient Harm Resulting from Falls**



International
Patient Safety Goals
(IPSG)