

Patient Safety Focus

TOP 10 ISSUES FOR 2025:

A SPECIAL LOOK AT PATIENT SAFETY BEST PRACTICES



This year's 2025 MAPS Top 10 was developed to help hospitals and other healthcare organizations adopt and implement the most critical patient safety practices outlined in attestation statements of the new **CMS Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM)**.

The white paper provides available peer-reviewed literature that supports each practice, implementation strategies, solutions to the most common implementation challenges and resources to build reliability into patient safety practices.

The PSSM assesses and enhances commitment to patient safety. Pursuing the practices in the MAPS white paper can create a high-reliability organization, where safety is a priority, risks are minimized and care outcomes improve for all patients.

PRACTICE 1

GOVERNING BOARD EDUCATION

A knowledgeable board is better positioned to ensure that safety is embedded in strategic decisions, performance evaluations and incentive structures. **Domain 1**



PRACTICE 2

PATIENT SAFETY METRICS

Setting specific, measurable goals can create a culture where preventable harm is seen as unacceptable and adverse events are scrutinized. **Domains 1 and 2**



PRACTICE 3

JUST CULTURE AND FAIRNESS

Establishing a Just Culture fosters fairness and accountability by distinguishing between human error, at-risk behavior and reckless behavior. **Domain 2**

PRACTICE 4

PATIENT SAFETY CURRICULUM

A comprehensive patient safety curriculum fosters a culture of safety among staff, leadership and governing board members.

Domain 2



PRACTICE 5

EVIDENCE-BASED EVENT ANALYSIS

Implementing evidence-based event analysis involves identifying root causes of serious safety events and developing solutions to prevent recurrence. **Domain 3**



PRACTICE 6

IMPROVEMENT METHODOLOGIES

Adopting improvement methodologies can guide staff in proactively identifying safety risks, streamlining processes and reducing care variability. **Domain 3**

PRACTICE 7

HUMAN FACTORS ENGINEERING

Principles of human factors engineering ensure devices, equipment and processes are designed to support clinicians and reduce errors. **Domain 3**

PRACTICE 8

SAFETY EVENT REPORTING

Reporting safety events to a PSO helps providers identify regional patterns, learn from events and develop preventive measures. **Domain 4**

PRACTICE 9

COMMUNICATION AND RESOLUTION

A Communication and Resolution Program promotes a system of transparency that prioritizes communication, accountability and timely event resolution. **Domain 4**

PRACTICE 10

PATIENT/FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL

A Patient and Family Advisory Council is a structured way for hospitals to engage patients, families and caregivers in safety-related decision-making. **Domain 5**



JOIN MAPS PSO IN ADDRESSING THESE KEY PATIENT SAFETY ISSUES

Founded in 2010, the Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS) is a federally certified Patient Safety Organization (PSO) and a wholly owned, non-profit subsidiary of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association. MAPS members benefit from federal protections, confidential data submission, continuing education credits and our supportive PSO community. **The annual white paper and all MAPS services are part of membership.**

**Together, we
can advance
patient safety.
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