

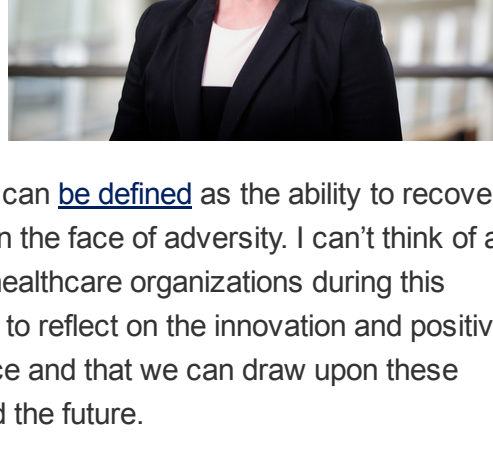
NCPS Mission: To continuously improve the safety and quality of healthcare delivery in the region.

NCPS Update: January 2022

A Message from the Executive Director

Gail Brondum, BS, LPN

A year ago, when we greeted 2021, it was hard to imagine a year that could be as difficult as 2020. Yet the pandemic has continued to morph, creating even more hardship and uncertainty. The events of the past two years have certainly tested the resilience of us all, especially the healthcare workforce. Resilience can be defined as the ability to recover from setbacks, adapt well to change, and keep going in the face of adversity. I can't think of a better word to describe healthcare professionals and healthcare organizations during this arduous time. I hope that we can each take a moment to reflect on the innovation and positive changes that have occurred as a result of our resilience and that we can draw upon these experiences to look ahead with some optimism toward the future.



As I personally look back on the past year, several of my family members experienced health crises for which my help was needed. I am grateful for the ability to work remotely and flex work hours to attend to the needs of my family and for the support of the NCPS Board and staff throughout this time. After much reflection, I have decided to retire at the end of March 2022, so that I can focus on my family. It has been an honor to serve as the NCPS Executive Director for the past four years, during a period of remarkable change for the organization. Please look for the NCPS Executive Director position posting on the [UNMC job site](#) soon. Questions about this position may be directed to Katherine Jones, PT, PhD NCPS Board President at kjones57@gmail.com or 402-598-7907. NCPS is moving through an exciting era of growth and this role will be a great career opportunity for an innovative leader in patient safety!

Thank you for your partnership with NCPS and your ongoing efforts to improve patient safety. I hope for a brighter 2022 for us all.

NCPS Shared Learning Resource: Reporting Committee Summary

The NCPS learning resource this month is a Reporting Committee Summary, which focuses on the wrong patient's medications being sent home with another patient upon discharge. This [summary](#) includes information and resources about the importance of having procedures in place for home medications, providing orientation to float staff, and patient education upon discharge. It also contains an organizational self-assessment, "Could this happen in your organization?" to help identify gaps and next steps in developing risk mitigation strategies to reduce the potential for similar adverse events. The summary is available to members by visiting the Educational Resources tab in the members only portal on the NCPS website: <https://www.nepatientsafety.org/members/>

Organization Member Update - What You Need to Know

Each year, NCPS completes its Patient Safety Organization (PSO) Profile with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). AHRQ has begun collecting additional information from PSOs related to the characteristics of the healthcare organizations we serve. In order to accurately complete this additional information, we are asking the primary contact at each NCPS member organization to complete a short survey. NCPS will use the information from the survey to complete the AHRQ PSO Profile and to maintain a member profile for each organization member. In addition to the AHRQ required fields, we hope to update contact information, organization demographics and to learn more about the current patient safety needs of your organization. The surveys will be sent this week by email and we ask that it be completed by January 14th. Thank you for your help in keeping our records up to date and providing key information so that we can better serve you.

NCPS will be embarking on an electronic reporting system for organization members early in 2022. Using a phased implementation approach, NCPS will transition from using a fillable pdf form to a web-based reporting platform which member organizations may access to submit reports to NCPS and to view their own reported data. Look for virtual informational meetings to be scheduled soon. Funding from the Patient Safety Cash Fund will be used to support this project.

Organization member fees will increase by approximately 3% in 2022 to help NCPS keep pace with the cost of doing business. Membership invoices will be sent to designated organization contacts beginning in January.

Please contact gail.brondum@unmc.edu with any questions about the member profile survey, electronic reporting initiative or membership fees.

Collaborative Opportunities for NCPS Members

NCPS Debrief Safe Table

NCPS will host a virtual Debrief Collaborative Safe Table on Thursday, January 27th from 12:00 – 1:00 pm CST. During this Safe Table, Katherine Jones, PT, PhD will lead and facilitate discussion among participants to learn about progress and challenges in developing structures and processes for conducting debriefs. Participants will be encouraged to share successes, barriers, stories and practices related to conducting debriefs in their organizations. A Safe Table is a forum where healthcare providers can gather to review and discuss issues related to quality and patient safety improvement in a confidential and privileged space. Information discussed during this Safe Table will be considered Patient Safety Work Product within the NCPS and providers Patient Safety Evaluation Systems as defined by the federal Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005. Additional details about the Debrief Collaborative Safe Table will be coming to all NCPS members soon.

Learning Opportunities for NCPS Members

Fundamentals of Infusion Therapy – Infusion Nurses Society

The Fundamentals of Infusion Therapy (FIT) program consists of 8 modules with full motion graphics, videos, simulations, references, and critical thinking exercises that engage learners, while incorporating considerations for various health care settings and patient populations. This program is suited for nurses who are new to nursing practice as well as experienced nurses wishing to advance their knowledge of infusion therapy best practices.

Module 1: Safe Infusion Therapy Practice

Learn how you can prevent infections

Module 2: Vascular Access Device and Site Selection

Learn how to choose the most appropriate device and site

Module 3: Proper Use of Short Peripheral Catheter (SPC)

Explore best practices for short peripheral catheter insertion and use

Module 4: Device Care and Management

Learn how to care for and maintain various vascular access devices

Module 5: Administration of Fluids and Medications

Learn best practices when delivering fluids and medications by different infusion methods

Module 6: Proper Device Removal

Explore the best approach for removal of various vascular access devices

Module 7: Assessment and Management of Complications

Learn to identify various complications and how to intervene

Module 8: Final Challenge!

Apply what you have learned in this module in various patient scenarios

Click [here](#) to learn more. This program has been approved for 5 contact hours and there is a fee associated with it.

High-Alert Medications—Heparin, Concentrated Electrolytes, and Magnesium: Practical Strategies in Pursuit of Safety – Institute for Safe Medication Practices

Although most medications in healthcare today have a wide margin of safety, there remain some which can cause serious harm or death if they are misused. To reduce the risk of error with these "high-alert" medications, special precautions and high leverage strategies should be implemented to avoid serious patient safety events.

Join the ISMP faculty as they focus on the potential safe use risks with heparin, concentrated electrolytes, and magnesium using the results from *ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment® for High-Alert Medications* scheduled for January 25, 2022 2:00 PM CST. Faculty will review specific safety characteristics of each these important drug classes, describe self-assessment findings related to the use of these medications, and discuss the necessary practice strategies for harm prevention when using these high-alert medications.

There is **no cost** for this event and *free Continuing Education hours for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and nurses are available to attendees*. To register and learn more about how to earn the CEs, click [here](#).

AMA's STEPS Forward™ Educational Modules Addressing Burnout and Wellbeing

Physician well-being is influenced by both organizational and individual factors. This collection of toolkits offers strategies on how to engage health system leadership, understanding physician burnout and how to address it, as well as developing a culture that supports physician well-being. There are 15 modules available and continuing medical education credits are available for each. Click [here](#) to learn more.

2022 Hematology Highlights: A Post American Society of Hematology Review

Updates from the society's 2021 annual meeting will be offered via Zoom. It will be held on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration deadline is Feb. 2 and continuing education credits are available.

The conference is designed to provide updates on new treatments and management of acute and chronic leukemia, thrombosis/hemostasis, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes and myeloproliferative neoplasms.

The cost is nominal for health professionals and free for residents and fellows. Residents and fellows are asked to complete this [registration form](#) and submit along with verification of your resident/fellow status. For fees and more information, including the agenda and speakers, go to [ASH review conference](#).

Questions about the conference can be directed to Bailey Wrenn in the Center for Continuing Education via [email](#) or at 402-559-5929.

Contemporary Management of Cancer Risk and Prevention Symposium Hosted by UNMC

Contemporary Management of Cancer Risk and Prevention Symposium will be presented on Friday, February 11, from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 pm via Zoom. Registration deadline is February 8.

An update on cancer risk and prevention management with an emphasis on genetic testing, high-risk surveillance and risk-reducing treatment recommendations will be presented. Other topics included in the symposium include pre-implantation genetic testing, biallelic implications and who to refer to for hereditary cancer genetic care. The keynote speaker is Nigel Brockton, PhD, from the University of Calgary.

The intended audience is primary care/internal medicine providers, genetic counselors and nurses, advanced practice providers and other health care professionals who work with patients with a family history of cancer or genetic mutations.

The registration fee is low for health professionals and free for fellows, residents and students. Fellows, residents, and students must complete a separate [registration form](#) along with verification of their status. For more information, go to [Contemporary Management of Cancer Risk and Prevention Symposium](#).

Questions about the conference can be directed to Bailey Wrenn in the Center for Continuing Education via [email](#) or at 402-559-5929.

Patient Safety Resources

National Action Plan to Advance Patient Safety

Though there have been considerable efforts over the past 20 years to reduce preventable harm in healthcare, this remains a major concern in the United States. Safer Together: A National Action Plan to Advance Patient Safety centers on four foundational and interdependent areas, prioritized as essential to create total systems safety.

The plan, found [here](#), gives clear direction that health care leaders, delivery organizations, and associations can use to make significant advances toward safer care and reduction of harm across the continuum of care.

Debriefing for Clinical Learning

Debriefing is a directed, intentional conversation that can be used for knowledge or skill attainment, or to answer questions about threats to patient safety and patient care based on a recent event or a hypothetical situation. Debriefing is an important strategy for learning about and making improvements in individual, team, and system performance. It is one of the central learning tools in simulation training, occurring after learners participate in the simulation experience, and is recommended after significant clinical events such as a code, adverse patient event, or medical error.

AHRQ's primer, [Debriefing for Clinical Learning | PSNet \(ahrq.gov\)](#), is a valuable resource for gaining information regarding debriefings. Multiple debriefing frameworks, scripts, and tools are available to assist leaders with planning and implementing debriefings.

Best Practice Guidance in Response to National Shortage of 10-mL Prefilled Flush Syringes and Saline Vials - National Coalition for IV Push Safety and the Infusion Nurses Society

Review the recommended mitigation strategies needed during the current national shortage of prefilled saline syringes and saline vials. View the information [here](#).

Handwashing Resources to Share with Non-Healthcare Persons

This past month, December 5-11, was National Handwashing Awareness Week. The importance of this basic infection control practice has become very clear to the general public during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC's website and [Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives](#) provides valuable information to share with non-healthcare workers.

Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) Medication Safety Alert! Action Agenda

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) publishes *ISMP Medication Safety Alert! Action Agenda* every four months; one for Acute Care and one for Ambulatory Care. It contains selected items from ISMP newsletters which have been collated into an agenda for organizations to use to stimulate discussion and collaborative action as the organization begins the process of reducing and preventing medication errors. The Ambulatory Care agenda topics listed include a brief description of the medication safety problem, recommendations to reduce the risk of errors, and the newsletter issue number to locate additional information as desired. The Acute Care agenda lists the medication safety problem, recommendations to reduce the risk of errors, organizational assessment, action required/assignment, and date completed. The agendas may be downloaded as a pdf, a Word document or as an Excel spreadsheet.

The [ISMP Medication Safety Alert! Action Agenda \(May - August 2021\)](#) for Ambulatory Care includes a COVID-19 vaccination related issue, reports of COVID-19 vaccine-related shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (SIRVA). The recommendation to reduce the risk of errors states, "Vaccinators must understand the proper technique for IM injection into the deltoid muscle: expose the upper arm/shoulder area, measure 2 to 3 fingers widths from the acromion process (bony prominence above the deltoid), and locate the armpit as the lower border. Outline the deltoid muscle and inject the needle at a 90-degree angle." The most recent Acute Care Alert can be found [here](#).

Healthcare Provider Communication and Health Importance Associated With Hospitalized Children's Vaccination Status

Two AHRQ-supported studies found that communication practices as well as the knowledge, beliefs and experiences of caregivers impacted flu vaccination of children while they were in the hospital. In a [study](#), published in *Academic Pediatrics*, researchers surveyed 194 caregivers of hospitalized children to determine whether they planned to vaccinate during hospitalization. Of those who initially had not thought about vaccination or planned to decline the vaccination, 22 percent decided to accept the vaccine, with 67 percent of those citing a conversation with a healthcare professional as the main reason for changing their mind. A second [study](#), published in *Hospital Pediatrics* found caregivers who believed that flu vaccines were important for their child's health was the strongest positive predictor of vaccinating their hospitalized children. In addition, caregiver vaccine hesitancy and agreement that vaccination should be deferred during acute illness were the strongest negative predictors. These factors can serve as a critical step to designing effective, evidence-based interventions to identifying vaccination opportunities during children's hospitalizations.

COVID-19 Resources

Dr. Lawler Reviews Omicron Trends

In this [video](#), James Lawler, MD, MPH of UNMC Global Center for Health Security reviews the recent Omicron trends in the UK/Denmark/South Africa and in the northeastern region of the U.S. where increases in cases and pediatric hospitalization are creating concern.

Using Social Media to Combat Vaccine Misinformation

CHI Health in Omaha is using Twitter and Instagram as methods to get information to younger people about COVID-19 vaccinations. The 15-second videos posted on Instagram are designed to combat misinformation about vaccine safety. See the Omaha KETV Channel 7 story [here](#).

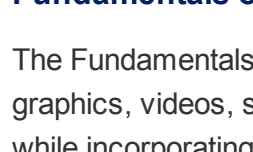
Additionally, a study published in *BMJ Global Health* showed that it is possible to reduce belief misinformation rapidly, even when such beliefs are widely held and reinforced via the health system. They found that a communications strategy that gives room to explain why misinformation is wrong and then provides scientifically correct information, is in line with existing worldviews, delivered by credible sources and gets repeated exposure has the potential to yield desired results without unintentionally seeding misinformation. The social media conduit utilized in this study was WhatsApp and through it audio dramas were delivered. You can find the article [here](#).

Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Tracking Resources

There are many on-line COVID tracking resources available. The one provided by Johns Hopkins is updated daily, is very robust, and is a trustworthy data source. If you've not yet explored this tool you might want to check it out [here](#). Data is presented in a variety of formats and information can be viewed globally, by country, by state, and even by county dependent upon a state's data collection system. The "Data In Motion" tab presents data in a rolling graph format for the most current 7 days; it is compelling and could be a good resource to show those experiencing vaccine hesitancy.

For more information about NCPS and the services we offer, please contact Gail Brondum LPN, BS, Executive Director at: gail.brondum@unmc.edu

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