

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



## **NCPS Update: January 2021**

### **A Message from the Executive Director**

#### ***Welcome 2021!***

Never before have so many been ready for a new year to start. The toll the pandemic has taken on individuals, society, and the economy has been immeasurable. Yet the response of the health care workforce has been astounding and we have witnessed inspiring innovation, collaboration, and resilience on the part of individuals and organizations in the face of incredibly difficult conditions. As we reflect on 2020, we at NCPS feel honored to be serving healthcare providers and we thank you for all you have done during this unprecedented time.

We look forward to working in partnership with you in this next year; we are committed to building upon what we've learned to improve our systems, processes, and services to better support you and your teams in improving patient safety. We welcome your suggestions along these lines and wish you the best in the coming year. As always, we will keep you informed of important patient safety-related educational opportunities and other resources to help you and your teams maintain a robust patient safety evaluation system that protects your patient safety work product. Please see the notice about a free webinar being offered by the CHART Institute that speaks to these important aspects of belonging to a patient safety organization. Register today!

An inspiring thought for us all as we begin this new year:

“Regardless of what challenge you are facing right now, know that it has not come to stay. It has come to pass. During these times, do what you can with what you have, and ask for help if needed. Most importantly, never surrender. Put things in perspective. Take care of yourself. Find ways to replenish your energy, strengthen your faith, and fortify yourself from the inside out.” ~Les Brown



- Gail Brondum LPN, BS

### **Thank you from AHA and NHA**

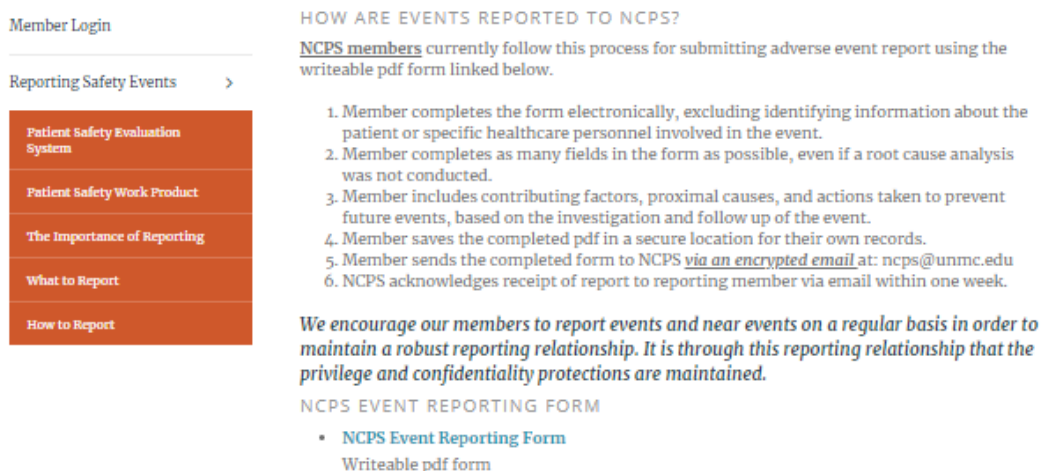
The American Hospital Association and Nebraska Hospital Association teamed up to create the following video to serve as a thank you to all of our health care workers for their extraordinary efforts this past year. View [here \[t.e2ma.net\]](https://t.e2ma.net). NCPS is grateful for the trusted support that AHA and NHA provide to hospitals and we join them in thanking the healthcare workforce.

### **Reporting Committee Summary**

The Quarter 4 2020 Reporting Committee Summary is now available. The summary focuses on risk mitigation as it relates to working with students during their clinical rotations. You can access and download this summary by logging into the NCPS Members Resources portal on our website.

## Revised NCPS Safety Event Report Form

Because we realize that not all patient safety incidents or near events are caused by error, we have revised the patient safety event reporting form by removing the term “Error” and replacing it with “Event”. You can download the revised form by visiting the NCPS website and clicking on the Members tab. There you will find “How to Report” instructions and a link to the writeable pdf under the “Reporting Safety Events” tab. [\*\*Download and submit a safety event report today!\*\*](#)



The screenshot shows a website interface. On the left, there is a navigation menu with the following items: Member Login, Reporting Safety Events (with a right-pointing arrow), Patient Safety Evaluation System, Patient Safety Work Product, The Importance of Reporting, What to Report, and How to Report. The 'Reporting Safety Events' item is highlighted in orange. To the right of the menu, the text reads: 'HOW ARE EVENTS REPORTED TO NCPS?' followed by a paragraph: 'NCPS members currently follow this process for submitting adverse event report using the writeable pdf form linked below.' Below this is a numbered list of six steps: 1. Member completes the form electronically, excluding identifying information about the patient or specific healthcare personnel involved in the event. 2. Member completes as many fields in the form as possible, even if a root cause analysis was not conducted. 3. Member includes contributing factors, proximal causes, and actions taken to prevent future events, based on the investigation and follow up of the event. 4. Member saves the completed pdf in a secure location for their own records. 5. Member sends the completed form to NCPS via an encrypted email at: ncps@unmc.edu. 6. NCPS acknowledges receipt of report to reporting member via email within one week. Below the list is a paragraph: 'We encourage our members to report events and near events on a regular basis in order to maintain a robust reporting relationship. It is through this reporting relationship that the privilege and confidentiality protections are maintained.' Underneath that is the heading 'NCPS EVENT REPORTING FORM' and a bullet point: '• NCPS Event Reporting Form Writeable pdf form'.

## **Patient Safety Resources**

### **Fall Events Added to The Joint Commission Sentinel Event Policy**

Effective Jan. 1, 2021, the Joint Commission added a definition of fall events to their Sentinel Event Policy to help staff in all health care settings to be able to understand whether a fall with should be reviewed as a sentinel event. The definition provides details regarding the level of harm and resultant patient care management. Although reporting a sentinel event to the Joint Commission is voluntary, the Joint Commission expects that health care organizations will conduct an internal comprehensive systematic analysis of these fall events, to help increase their knowledge about falls and implement more effective fall preventive measures. [Read more.](#)

### **Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program (ICAP)**

Nebraska ICAP is supported by the Nebraska DHHS Healthcare-Associated Infection Program via a grant from the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention. ICAP offers no cost, peer-to-peer infection control assessments and recommendations to hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other types of patient care settings across Nebraska. Visit their website to retrieve many valuable resources and tools to help your teams with infection control: <https://icap.nebraskamed.com/> In particular, at this time when keeping surfaces clean and disinfected is so critically important, you may want to view their collection of **Environmental Cleaning in Healthcare Training Videos** – with translations and closed captioning in English, French, Arabic and Spanish! Click [here](#) to access them directly.

### **Injection Safety Resources**

With the COVID-19 vaccinations underway, and while we are still in flu vaccine season as well, it is important to review and have ready for your teams the resources they need to maintain safe injection practices. Visit the CDC to retrieve their [One and Only Campaign](#) resources. Additional injection safety-related resources are available from the Nebraska ICAP website. Their [audit form](#) could be implemented as part of oversight of vaccination teams that enter a healthcare facility to ensure safe practices. And, an [informational poster](#) created by the ICAP team can be displayed in all medication preparation areas.

✓ **A Guide for Health Systems to Save Lives from “Deaths of Despair” and Improve Community Well-Being**

Saving lives from "deaths of despair" (i.e., deaths due to drugs, alcohol, and suicide) is a complex problem that requires adaptive changes and new solutions to transform systems. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement partnered with Well Being Trust to develop guidance for health care systems to improve mental health and well-being in the communities they serve, focusing specifically on saving lives from deaths of despair. Access the guide [here](#).

**Learning Opportunities for NCPS Members**

☑ **Artificial Intelligence in Medicine: Risk Management and Litigation**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 from 11 AM – 12 PM Central Time.

**PURPOSE:** To define artificial intelligence and describe its use in healthcare and risks associated with computer-assisted diagnosis and remote monitoring, and to provide mitigation strategies.

**PRESENTER:** Matthew Keris, Esq.

**REGISTRATION:** Click [here](#) to register for this **free** webinar.

☑ **Lessons Learned from Patient Safety Act Case Law**

This webinar is being sponsored by the CHART Institute PSO in collaboration with the Alliance for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety.

**DATE:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 from 1 – 2 PM Central Time.

**PURPOSE:** Participants will review discovery disputes in which the National Peer Privilege has been raised. Types of information that are protected as Patient Safety Work Product (PSWP), the pathways used to protect the patient safety work product (PSWP) and the courts' orders and decisions will be reviewed. Discussion will center around how a hospital can learn from the case law to modify their Patient Safety Evaluation Systems to create stronger defenses.

**PRESENTER:** Robin Locke Nagele, JD. represents a broad range of proprietary and not-for-profit health care providers and health systems in litigation and regulatory compliance.

**REGISTRATION:** Click [here](#) to register for this free webinar.

**If you have a patient safety topic you would like to learn more about, please contact Regina Nailon ([regina.nailon@unmc.edu](mailto:regina.nailon@unmc.edu)) with your suggestions.**

**We welcome input from our members!**

**COVID-19 Resources**

✓ **Nebraska COVID-19 Vaccination Plan**

Now that vaccines are being distributed across the state, you may find it helpful to refer to the Nebraska COVID-19 Vaccination Plan for guidance. Of particular importance is the requirement to report any potential adverse reaction through the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Click [here](#) to access the Plan. The DRAFT watermark is purposely part of the document because it is a fluid document, and DHHS is frequently making changes to it. Click [here](#) to access additional vaccine-related information for healthcare providers and the general public.

✓ **Iowa COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy**

Click [here](#) to access the Iowa Department of Public Health COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy. Because it is a fluid document, the Draft on the title page is purposely placed there. Find additional vaccine-related information for healthcare providers and the general public by clicking [here](#).

✓ **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution & Administration – Is your Health System Prepared?**

Click [here](#) to register to view a free recording of a live-streamed lab webcast conducted by ECRI on December 16. The webcast focused on the following topics:

- Key steps facilities must follow to safely handle and administer the vaccine

- Best practices for storing and handling dry ice
- Critical supplies to have and which ones you can do without
- Dosage preparation and helpful strategies to avoid cross-contamination

✓ **COVID-19 Update for Outpatient, Small and Rural Hospitals for DHHS Region VII (NE, IA, MO, KS)**

Every other Tuesday

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Central TIME

<https://unmc.zoom.us/j/168131463> [t.e2ma.net]

Dial in Number: (669) 900-6833

Webinar ID: 168 131 463

✓ **A Guide to Promoting Health Care Workforce Well-being During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The COVID-19 crisis is exacerbating issues with burnout and joy in the workplace, increasing stress on health care workers. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement provides health care leaders at all levels with tools for overcoming burnout, fatigue and emotional distress. Click [here](#) to access the guide.

✓ **10 Quick Mindfulness Exercises for Coping with COVID-19 Stress and Anxiety**

It is important for busy health care workers to prioritize self-care. Studies relate mindfulness with improvements in empathy, cognitive performance, and health and well-being. Click [here](#) to begin using these exercises, made available from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.