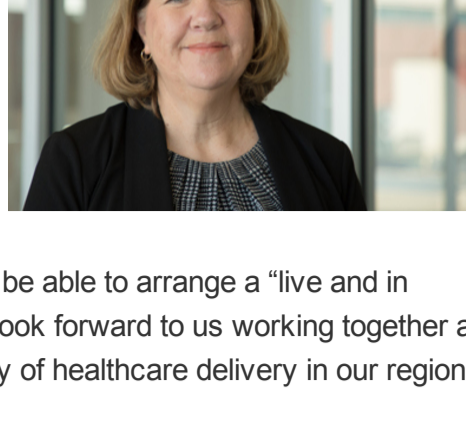


## NCPS Update: November 2021

### A Message from the Patient Safety

#### Program Director

Carla Snyder, MHA, MT(ASCP)SBB



Greetings from the newest member of the NCPS team! I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you via Zoom in my first few weeks at NCPS and hope we'll be able to arrange a "live and in person" contact at some time during the coming year. I look forward to us working together as we continue our journey to improve the safety and quality of healthcare delivery in our region.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the healthcare workforce has been and continues to be incredible. We recognize how disruptive the pandemic has been to healthcare operations and individual lives. Throughout, NCPS has continued to support providers in their efforts to improve patient safety and has made progress in expanding our capacity as Nebraska's only AHRQ listed PSO.

In 2021, NCPS welcomed all physicians and physician assistants licensed in Nebraska as individual members. We hosted seven educational webinars with a total of 454 attendees. There were 7.5 continuing education hours awarded to nurses and 4 continuing medical education hours awarded to providers. Our work to transition to electronic reporting of events is progressing and we anticipate a launch of this software in 2022. The NCPS website welcomed approximately 3,000 visitors and the NCPS newsletter detailing patient safety news and continuing education opportunities is now sent out to 13,200 active member contacts.

We at NCPS wish you the very best holiday season and hope, whether you're spending time with family and friends or having a moment to yourself for relaxation and reflection, that you experience personal joy and the benefits of wellness. We appreciate your commitment to providing the best and safest possible patient care to the members of our communities.

### NCPS Shared Learning Resource: Patient Safety Alert

Click [here](#) to open the NCPS learning resource this month, a Patient Safety Alert which focuses on falls in the ambulatory care setting. This alert includes information and resources about the importance of using a multi-pronged approach to mitigate patient falls in non-inpatient care settings. It also contains an organizational self-assessment, "Could this happen in your organization?" to help identify gaps and next steps in fall prevention strategies. The alert is also available to members by visiting the Educational Resources tab in the members only portal on the NCPS website: <https://www.nepatientsafety.org/members/>

### Congratulations to NCPS Members Earning LEAPFROG Hospital Safety Grade A!

- Bryan East Campus (Lincoln, NE)
- Bryan West Campus (Lincoln, NE)
- Great Plains Health (North Platte, NE)

### Learning Opportunities for NCPS Members

#### Sepsis Alliance Event: HAI Mini-Summit 2021 - Free CE Available for Nurses

According to the CDC, one in every 31 patients contracts at least one healthcare-associated infection (HAI) daily. And HAIs have increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic—some, such as central line bloodstream infections (CLABSIs), increased as much as 47% in 2020. Attention must be refocused on reducing these numbers.

Please join the Sepsis Alliance Institute for the second Healthcare-Associated Infection Mini-Summit. The HAI Mini-Summit will offer a free, virtual 3.5-hour clinical program on a range of topics in the area of HAIs, including:

- Peripheral intravenous line-associated bloodstream infections;
- Non-ventilator hospital-acquired pneumonia;
- CAUTIs & CLABSIs;
- Antimicrobial stewardship & HAIs.

Attendees will hear expert presentations on current clinical knowledge and recommendations for infection prevention and treatment to improve clinical outcomes. **This event is free for registrants and will offer 4.20 CE contact hours for nurses.** Register [here](#).

#### PSOs: What Every Ambulatory Provider Needs to Know - CME Available for Viewing Recorded Webinar

As a reminder, if you were unable to attend our October virtual education program, the recording is now available [here](#). Continuing Medical Education may be earned by attending the recorded session and completing the program evaluation and CME attestation. The Nebraska Medical Education Trust has designated this webinar for 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s).

During this program, Michael Callahan, Senior Counsel of Katten Law Health Care Team, explores patient safety activities in the ambulatory care setting and their implications for privilege and confidentiality protections within the context of working with a federally listed patient safety organization, such as NCPS. Mr. Callahan also describes common types of events which occur in the ambulatory setting, the purpose of working with a patient safety organization, and the structures and processes involved in maintaining a patient safety evaluation system.

Nursing Continuing Education credits are not available for viewing the recorded webinar.

#### Upcoming Fundamental Critical Care Support Courses at UNMC

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) now offers its Fundamental Critical Care Support (FCCS) Course each month. The December 2021 class is full however please mark your calendars for the upcoming year's schedule:

- 1/06-1/7/2022
- 2/01-2/02/2022
- 3/03-03/04/2022
- 4/07-04/08/2022
- 5/05-5/06/2022
- 6/02-6/03/2022

FCCS is a two-day course developed by the SCCM to better prepare patient care teams in the recognition and initial management of critically ill patients until transfer or appropriate critical care consultation can be arranged. It also is designed to assist those who manage critically ill patients with sudden deterioration.

A partnership with the UNMC Office of Continuing Education, the course is taught by experts in the care of patients with critical illness and is geared toward nurses, advanced practice providers, respiratory therapists, physicians, pharmacists, paramedics, medical and surgical residents and health care students. Additional details about the UNMC FCCS course and topics covered can be found [here](#).

The grant that provided funding for the December course fee to be waived has been consumed. The course fee of \$400 includes the books, lunch and 17.5 hours of continuing education credits appropriate to an individual's clinical profession. Individuals who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate of completion from SCCM, which is valid for four years. A discounted fee is available to UNMC/Nebraska Medicine employees.

For more information about the course or to sign up, contact course coordinator Jessica Bruno at [jess.bruno@unmc.edu](mailto:jess.bruno@unmc.edu) or by calling 402-559-8884 or course director Mark Hamill, MD, at [m.hamill@unmc.edu](mailto:m.hamill@unmc.edu). More information about the course is also available on the SCCM [website](#).

#### AHRQ's Patient Safety Network WebM&M Case Studies

PSNet offers monthly WebM&M (Morbidity & Mortality Rounds on the Web). They feature expert analysis of medical errors that have been reported anonymously by their readers and commentaries written by patient safety experts. Click [here](#) to check it out. *CME is available.*

#### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: STEADI (Stopping Elderly Accidents, Death & Injuries) Falls Prevention Initiative

This program was created for healthcare providers who treat older adults who are at risk of falling or have fallen in the past. Each year, more than 1 in 4 older adults falls, but more than half of those who fall don't tell their healthcare provider. The STEADI initiative was developed in response to this growing health threat. STEADI offers [training and resources](#) to help healthcare providers put fall prevention strategies into practice.

Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, and other health care professionals can receive free continuing education for this training by registering on [CDC Training and Continuing Education \(TEC\) Online](#), searching for course number WB4310, and completing the evaluation.

#### American Medical Association: Behavioral Health Integration into Primary Care, Expand Patient Access to Behavioral and Mental Health and Improve Patient Care

This toolkit is one of the initiatives within AMA's Steps Forward portfolio and is designed to bring medical and behavioral health services together within the primary care setting. The tools within it aid primary care clinicians in their effective screening, diagnosis, and treatment of a range of behavioral health issues. Physician-led primary care teams frequently address common mental health disorders, such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse, as well as behavioral and lifestyle issues, such as smoking, lack of exercise, and poor sleep. Patients who are not adequately treated for depression or anxiety are less likely to take their medications for other chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure, and, as a result, outcome goals are more difficult to achieve.

Click [here](#) to learn more. *CME is available for this course.*

#### Save the Date for the AQIPS Virtual National Safe Table

On Thursday, January 27, 2022 from 1:30 - 3:00 PM CST, HPI Press Ganey Patient Safety Organization (PSO) and the AQIPS National Safe Table Program will be presenting the next virtual National Safe Table, "Ambulatory Safety: Understanding and Preventing Diagnostic Error." Dr. Tejal Gandhi, MPH, CPPS, Press Ganey's Chief Safety and Transformation Officer, and other ambulatory safety experts will explore diagnostic error in the medical practice setting. Additional information will be included in the January NCPS Update.

## Patient Safety Resources

#### NCISH Safer Services: A Toolkit for Specialist Mental Health Services and Primary Care

This toolkit was developed by the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health based on in-depth information collected on all suicides in the UK since 1996. NCISH's goal is to improve safety for all mental health patients regardless of the patient's location (i.e. mental health services, primary care, emergency departments). The toolkit was designed to be used as the basis for a self-assessment and presents the 10 key elements for safer care for patients which have been shown to reduce suicide rates. Click [here](#) to access the toolkit.

#### ECRI Perioperative Safety Collaborative

ECRI will launch a Perioperative Safety Collaborative beginning in January 2022. This five-month collaborative offers healthcare providers the opportunity to work collaboratively alongside both subject matter experts and peers to identify and implement strategies to reduce surgical related risks and improve perioperative safety. A webinar about the collaborative can be viewed [here](#). There is a cost associated with joining the collaborative and pricing is based on the size of the participating teams. Go to [ECRI](#) to view the fee schedule. **December 15th is the registration deadline.**

#### Emergency Department Trigger Tool

The use of "trigger" tools to detect safety hazards and prevent patient harm is a common strategy in healthcare. The authors of this abstract explain how they refined and automated a previously developed emergency department trigger tool. Their results showed a promising approach to improve yield, scope, and efficiency of review for all-cause harm in emergency medicine.

The emergency department trigger tool: a novel approach to screening for quality and safety events. Griffey, R. Schneider R., Todorov A. (2020). *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. 76(2):230-40. Access the [abstract](#) on PubMed®.

#### Undertriaging Linked to Worse Outcomes in Post-Op Patients

This study looked at the question: Is postoperative undertriage associated with increased mortality, morbidity, and resources due to patients being assigned to a low-acuity hospital ward (i.e. floors) instead of a highly vigilant intensive care unit? The answer was yes; and equally important the study found additional preoperative and intraoperative data already housed within the EHR that could predict patients at increased risk for post-op complications.

Read more at [Undertriaging Linked to Worse Outcomes in Post-Op Patients. \(medscape.com\)](#)

## COVID-19 Resources

#### Free Online Resource to Support COVID-19 Vaccination

Take the Shot! Free resources to help communicate the importance of getting the COVID-19 vaccine are now available to support your vaccination campaigns. Posters, fact sheets, video testimonials, social media imagery and other media resources have been developed through a collaborative effort of the UNMC College of Public Health and United Healthcare and are available [here](#). Media materials can be downloaded, printed and shared or [can be ordered](#) at no cost.

#### What to Do About Pandemic PTSD

A growing number of studies are reporting intensified PTSD, depression, anxiety, and insomnia among healthcare workers and first responders as a result of the pandemic. This [article](#) offers differing points of view from PTSD experts and even more importantly the link to a directory of programs that healthcare professions can use for referral to confidential consultation and/or treatment.

#### Children's Hospital & Medical Center's Request to Providers: Lend your support for child COVID vaccines

The Nebraska Department of Education and Children's Hospital & Medical Center are teaming up to amplify voices in support of vaccinating all students across Nebraska.

Physicians and providers from communities across Nebraska are invited to sign on to a statement of support. Signatures are being collected through an online portal at [www.neprovidersforthevax.org](http://www.neprovidersforthevax.org). The goal is to collect signatures by Tuesday — when a statewide press conference is planned in support of COVID-19 vaccinations for kids ages 5 and older.

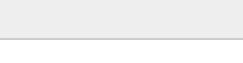
[Click here](#) for an overview of the initiative. Watch for additional details in coming months to help "Max the Vax" for Nebraska kids. Contact [Holly Dingman](#), director of Children's Center for the Child & Community, with any questions.

#### If COVID-19 Never Goes Away, Can It Help Shape a Better Health System?

Now that it is becoming clear that we are likely to be dealing with COVID-19 for the foreseeable future, does it make sense to view it not as a temporary situation to be dealt with, but instead as a force that ought to reset our health systems going forward? Read this [blog](#) by Kedar Mare, IHI's President and CEO, to consider this question and perhaps reframe your own mindset.

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

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