

NCPS Update: January 2023

A Message from the Patient Safety

Program Director

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Greetings to all our dedicated healthcare providers and NCPS member organizations as we begin 2023! 2022 was a challenging year for us all and yet NCPS members realized many successes in their 2022 patient safety quality improvement projects. Check out the Nebraska Hospital Association's website to view the [Quality Residency Program Capstone projects](#) completed in 2022 and you'll see what I mean (links to the various projects may be found in the November 4th agenda). We all recognize that 2023 will have similar, as well as new, challenges to be met. We at NCPS are grateful to each of you for working to improve patient safety in Nebraska and Iowa and appreciate your collaboration with us in this work. I encourage you to reach out to us for assistance or to make us aware of your needs as they occur.

We have added a new topic area on our website, President's Messages. The NCPS Board President periodically provides messages to the NCPS Board of Directors on a variety of patient safety, training, and organizational culture topics. These messages are of value to all NCPS members and are now available in the Members portion of the NCPS website within Educational Resources. The current postings include a summary of the events which resulted in a fatal medication error at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the subsequent charge of negligent homicide for the RN involved in the error. The author, our current board president, Katherine Jones, PT, PhD, explains the importance of implementing a Just Culture as the foundation for a culture of safety to mitigate such potential errors and their negative patient safety consequences. The second article is also written by Dr. Jones and its topic is "Big Data". Dr. Jones begins with an explanation of the Data-Information-Knowledge-Wisdom Hierarchy. She then explains what "Big Data" is and how NCPS' move to electronic reporting will impact the data we routinely collect in our work to improve patient safety.

NCPS Shared Learning Resources

This month's Learning Resource discusses a high-risk medication infusion error and the risks of bolus dosing with Smart Pumps. A checklist for mitigating this type of error is included in the summary. The Q4 2022 Reporting Committee Summary may be found on the NCPS website in the Members pages within the Education Resources.

Learning Opportunities for NCPS Members

Empathetic Listening: Honor the Patient Experience During Crisis

Expressing empathy is a key ingredient to enhancing the patient experience. The feeling of being understood by another person is intrinsically therapeutic as it bridges the isolation of illness and helps to restore the sense of connectedness that patients need to feel whole.

The foundation of empathetic communication is based on accurately understanding the patient's feelings and effectively communicating that understanding back to the patient so the patient feels understood. Check out this [AMA's STEPS Forward module](#) to learn the steps to becoming an empathetic listener.

AORN OR Excellence Webinars

AORN is offering a series of free monthly webinars covering a variety of topics; not all are specifically for those working in Surgery. Each webinar is at 12 noon CST and may be registered for by clicking on the title listed below. Nursing CEs are available for attendees.

- January 9, 2023 [Leadership Lessons for Challenging Times](#)
- February 16, 2023 [Trend Setters in Total Joints](#)
- March 14, 2023 [Strike Quickly to Prevent SSI](#)
- April 10, 2023 [Strategies to Solve Staffing Shortages](#)
- May 10, 2023 [Supply Shortages and What You Can Do About It](#)
- June 13, 2021 [The Secrets to Improved Instrument Care](#)

PSQH's Fireside Chat: Patient Safety and Workforce Retention

Patient Safety and Quality Healthcare (PSQH) recently hosted a Fireside Chat with Patricia McGafgigan, RN, MS, CPPS, vice president, Institute for Healthcare Improvement. PSQH recognized that one of the biggest challenges facing the healthcare industry is workforce retention. Other discussion points in this "Fireside Chat" include the current state of healthcare safety, the challenges that must be overcome, what needs to be done to maintain a healthy work environment, and how organizations can improve worker retention. You can gain access to a recording of the discussion by registering [here](#).

Sepsis Alliance Sponsored Webinar: Severity Stratification of Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients Using SeptiCyte RAPID

This webinar is a rebroadcast of the session originally presented at Sepsis Alliance Summit 2022. Learners will review the importance of and challenges associated with triaging COVID-19 patients in the ED, including determining which patients might require ICU care as a consequence of severe or critical SARS-CoV-2 infection, and which are most at risk of developing viral sepsis. The presenter will describe and present relevant data on a new FDA-cleared host response test, SeptiCyte RAPID, which can differentiate infectious systemic inflammation (sepsis) from non-infectious systemic inflammation. You may register for the webinar [here](#).

Collaborative Opportunities for NCPS Members

AHRQ's Special Announcement on Healthcare Associated Infections and Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria

To help reduce healthcare-associated infections and combat the threat of antibiotic resistance, which worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, AHRQ released a Special Emphasis Notice (SEN) requesting research proposals that address this patient safety concern. The SEN applies to multiple healthcare settings, with a priority on long-term and ambulatory care as well as transitions between care settings. If you are interested in being a part of this research you can get more details [here](#).

Patient Safety Resources

NCPS' Creating a Culture of Patient Safety

In collaboration with the Nebraska Hospital Association, NCPS provided six sessions for a cohort of NHA hospitals on the topic "Creating a Culture of Patient Safety". Those recordings may now be found on the public facing portion of the [NCPS website](#) under the heading "Promoting Patient Safety Culture". The handouts for those sessions are available to NCPS members by using their member sign-on, selecting Educational Resources, and then Webinars.

BMJ article: Cohort study of diagnostic delay in the clinical pathway of patients with chronic wounds in the primary care setting

Diagnostic errors continue to be a source of patient harm. This retrospective study identified patient- and organizational-level factors contributing to misdiagnosis of chronic wounds in primary care. Additionally, less than half of patients referred from primary care to specialist wound care teams had the correct diagnosis. Notably, 36% of patients who presented to primary care had signs of infection, however 61% received antibiotics, raising concerns of antibiotic overuse. The informative journal article may be found [here](#).

Press Play on Safety Conversations

After a patient safety incident, effective discussions are critical for healing and improvement. This website, provided by the Healthcare Excellence Canada, houses collections of materials to support constructive communication should a failure or near-miss occur. There are two distinct sections of materials: one for established healthcare professionals, and another for patients, students, and caregivers. You will find the resources [here](#).

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Free At Home COVID Test Kits Available

In case you have not seen the notices, four free at home test kits are now available for every U.S. household. Kits may be ordered [here](#).

James Lawlor, MD, MPH COVID Weekly Podcast

In Dr. Lawlor's December 22nd podcast from UNMC's Global Center for Health Security he reports on the recent increase in cases/hospitalizations/deaths, studies on the bivalent booster vaccine's effectiveness, and the latest on China's relaxed policies. The podcast may be found [here](#).

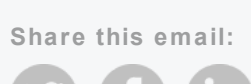
Tim Lahey, MD, MMSc, Mescape Opinion Piece: We Can Put Out the Dumpster Fire of the U.S. COVID Response - I see reason for public health optimism in 2023

Dr. Lahey is an infectious diseases physician and ethicist at the University of Vermont Medical center, and a professor of medicine at the University of Vermont's Lamer College of Medicine.

[Read](#) his opinion piece published on MedPage Today where he outlines his reasons for optimism for Public Health in 2023.

For more information about NCPS and the services we offer, please contact Carla Snyder MT(ASCP)SBB, MHA, Patient Safety Program Director at: carlasnyder@unmc.edu

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