

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

NCPS Update: May 2025

A Message from the Executive Director

Emily Barr, OTD, MBA, OTR/L, BCG

May 11–17 marks National Hospital Week in the United States—a time to honor and appreciate the vital contributions of hospitals, health systems, and the dedicated professionals who work within them. As we celebrate this week, NCPS extends our heartfelt gratitude to our hospital member organizations and the healthcare professionals who are committed to caring for Nebraskans every day. Your dedication continues to inspire and strengthen the health of our communities.



As previously announced, NCPS is planning to host a two-day TeamSTEPPS® Master Trainer Workshop on June 5–6 at Gothenburg Health. However, current registration numbers are low, and we may need to reschedule the event. Registration will remain open through close of business on May 19, and a final decision will be made based on the number of confirmed participants. We appreciate those who have already registered, and we will notify all registrants of the workshop's status on May 20.

As NCPS looks to offer TeamSTEPPS® Master Trainer courses more regularly, we welcome your feedback on the format and logistics of future workshops (e.g., 1-day vs. 2-day, preferred time of year, location preferences, etc.). Your input helps us ensure these offerings meet your needs and support the continued advancement of evidence-based teamwork and communication practices across Nebraska.

Finally, the NCPS team and Board of Directors will be convening in mid-June for our annual meeting and strategic planning session. A sincere thank you to all members who completed our recent engagement survey—your insights are invaluable and will directly inform our strategic goals and priorities for the next three years. Your engagement supports NCPS in fulfilling our mission to continuously improve the quality and safety of healthcare in our region.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to excellence in care.

NCPS Shared Learning Resource

Research has long shown that a patient's safety is at great risk during transitions of care (i.e., their movement from one care setting to another based on their changing healthcare needs). Inadequate communication and coordination during discharge was listed as ECRI's #9 concern on their 2025 list of Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns.[1] This month's shared learning is a [Patient Safety Alert](#) addressing this topic, **Inadequate Communication and Coordination During Discharge**. Included in the alert are resources to aid members in developing processes to reduce the likelihood of patient harm during a care transition. The National Transitions of Care's **Care Transition Bundle Seven Essential Interventions** is one such reference [2], as is the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's **Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit** [3]. This Toolkit offers evidence-based guidance to help healthcare providers make health information easier to understand and act on, make healthcare easier to navigate, and increase support for patients of all health literacy levels. The NCPS shared learning may be found [here](#) within our Members only portal.

[1] ECRI Institute. ECRI's 2025 Top Patient Safety Concerns. Available at: <https://home.ecri.org/blogs/ecri-blog/ecris-top-10-patient-safety-concerns-2025-a-critical-tool-for-healthcare-providers-across-the-continuum>

[2] National Transitions of Care Coalition. Care Transition Bundle Seven Essential Intervention Categories. Rev. 3.28.2022. Available at: <https://www.ntocc.org/care-transitions-bundle-seven-essential-elements-categories>

[3] Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit 3rd Edition. Available at: <https://www.ahrq.gov/health-literacy/improve/precautions/index.html>

Legal Update

AQIPS 2nd Quarter Legal Counsel Meeting

June 20th

12 noon CST

Please join us for this meeting hosted by the Alliance for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (AQIPS). You will learn of any case law patient safety developments and the activities AQIPS is embarking upon.

Join from the meeting link:

<https://aqips.my.webex.com/aqips.my/j.php?MTID=m18f3f531e1de60cb33a98a0280b9185a>

Join by phone:

+1-510-338-9438 USA Toll

Learning Opportunities for NCPS Members

TeamSTEPPS Master Trainer Workshop

Thursday and Friday, June 5th and 6th in Gothenburg at Gothenburg Health

8:00am - 4:30pm each day

TeamSTEPPS® (Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety) is designed to help health care professionals improve patient safety and quality through effective communication and teamwork skills. TeamSTEPPS® is an evidence-based set of tools and a training curriculum to successfully integrate communication and teamwork principles into any health care system. Many studies have found that teamwork training can lead to a stronger culture

of safety through:

- Positive change in behaviors
- Process efficiencies
- Increased patient satisfaction
- Cost savings
- Improved outcomes
- Enhanced staff satisfaction

You may learn more about this workshop and/or register for it on the [NCPS website](#); or email Emily Barr, embarr@unmc.edu, or Carla Snyder, carlasnyder@unmc.edu, with any questions (*CEUs for this training are pending*).

Patient Safety Resources

Report from AHRQ's Summit to Address Emergency Department Boarding - Strategies To Reduce Emergency Department Boarding

ED boarding has serious impacts on patients, including excess in-hospital mortality, increased medical errors and costly delays in care delivery. It also negatively impacts hospital staff and public safety. This AHRQ report shows that the causes of emergency department (ED) boarding originate at the hospital or health system level and require solutions beyond the walls of the ED. The report presents solutions from the perspective of hospital or health system levels and notes opportunities for health systems, states and federal partners to lead efforts moving forward. The paper may be found [here](#).

Strategies for Communicating With Parents About Vaccines

Vaccines in the current child and adolescent immunization schedule are safe, highly effective, and have prevented an estimated 146 million deaths worldwide among children younger than 5 years. Even so, clinicians increasingly encounter parents with questions and concerns about vaccines and may be unsure how best to respond. Effective communication strategies can help clinicians build trust, navigate difficult vaccine conversations, strengthen parental intention to vaccinate, and improve vaccine uptake. The paper may be found [here](#).

CMS Weighs Dropping Some Quality Measures: What to Know

On April 11, 2025 [CMS published proposed changes](#) as part of its 2026 proposed rule for the Medicare payment system.

The modification for four current quality measures includes:

- Total hip arthroplasty/Total knee arthroplasty complication rate and 30-day stroke mortality
- Hybrid, hospitalwide readmission and mortality measures

Additionally, CMS is proposing the removal of four measures from the IQR program, beginning with the 2024 reporting period and the fiscal 2026 payment determination period. The measures are:

- Hospital Commitment to health equity
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage among healthcare personnel
- Screenings for social drivers of health
- Screen positive rate for social drivers of health

CMS is accepting comments on the proposed changes through June 13.

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

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

986055 NE Medical Center
Omaha, NE | 68198 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.