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Oregon Patient Safety Commission News

This is the first edition of a monthly e-newsletter from the Oregon Patient Safety Commission to its nursing home participants. The newsletter's objective is to provide you with regular updates regarding the Commission's work as well as pertinent resident safety and quality improvement information. We want this to be useful for **you**, our participants. Please give us feedback. What do you want to know more about? Contact Amy Gryziec with your comments and suggestions. *{Including your suggestions for a better newsletter title than "Patient Safety News." Submit the **best** title and win a prize!}*

Written Notification Follow-Up

"Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing." --*Rollo May*

The Commission believes that all nursing home residents/resident representatives have a right to know about serious adverse events (those resulting in death or transfer to a higher level of care). As such, Commission participants are required to provide written notification to residents/representatives following a serious adverse event. According to statute, this notification must be timely and consistent with organization's existing policies.



Written notification is a relatively new practice in health care. Naturally, questions and concerns from Oregon's nursing home providers arose about the concept and process. In response, the Commission, in partnership with OHCA and the Alliance, developed an online survey to find out more about current notification practices, barriers to written notification and the resources that will assist providers in implementing this requirement.

Representatives from both multi-facility organizations and independently-owned nursing homes responded to the survey. Results indicated that most providers complete and document verbal notification of adverse events, but do not currently engage in written notification. However, written notification is a topic of interest to nursing homes; providers want more information about how to proceed. In follow-up, we commit to do the following by summer 2008:

- Research and share legal implications of written notification
- Convene a work group to develop recommendations
- Develop and distribute written notification toolkit (sample policies, letters, etc.)
- Facilitate a notification seminar

Please contact Amy Gryziec if you would like to be part of the work group. **Thank you** to the nursing home providers who completed the online written notification survey!

Special thanks to each panel member for their commitment and support!

Linda Dreyer, Acumentra

Sharon Faulk, Pinnacle Health Care

Patti Garibaldi, Marquis Companies

Ruth Gulyas, The Alliance

Demi Haffenreffer, Haffenreffer & Associates

Sarah Hout, Seniors & People with Disabilities

Linda Kirschbaum, OHCA

Nursing Home Expert Panel

The Commission convened the Nursing Home Expert Panel for its first meeting on Friday, February 15. The panel's goal is to better align nursing home safety efforts around a well articulated and interlocking set of principles, values and assumptions. A formal plan to execute the goal will be developed; simple implementation of safety and quality improvement methodologies with a strong consideration of regulatory compliance will drive the panel's work.

The Nursing Home Expert Panel will meet again on April 25 and continue monthly meetings through October.

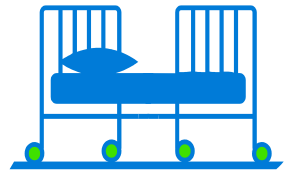
A Benefit of Commission Participation

The Commission is here to help you with your resident safety and quality improvement questions; all you have to do is ask. We'll use recent journal articles, evidence-based practices, the Expert Panel, local and national safety and quality improvement experts and other resources to find the information you need. We'll also share the information with all nursing home participants; the identity of the person/nursing home requesting information will remain confidential.

Recently, we received a request from a participant about *siderail hazards and entrapment*. In reply, we sent [this information](#), now posted on our website.

This is one of the benefits of being a Commission participant; please use us as a resource!

If you have a specific resident safety or quality improvement question, please contact Amy Gryzic.



2007 Hospital Summary

The Commission has just published its second annual hospital adverse event report. While the report focuses on acute inpatient care it offers a sample of what we share with the public. The information is aggregated and de-identified. It highlights patterns and trends across an entire healthcare sector.

In 2009 we anticipate publishing a similar report for nursing homes. That report will be as useful and robust as the information you share. So we encourage you to report your adverse events to the Commission – our updated web-based reporting form will be distributed soon. If you have questions about the hospital summary, please contact Jim Dameron.

This newsletter is being sent to you because you are a participant in the Oregon Patient Safety Commission's nursing home adverse event reporting program. Your E-mail address will not be shared or used for any purpose unrelated to the program. If you wish to unsubscribe, please sent an E-mail to linda.goertz@oregonpatientsafety.org with the Subject "Nursing Home Unsubscribe."