



## Patient Safety Awareness Week (PSAW) Suggested Activities

To assist in the planning and celebration of Patient Safety Awareness Week (PSAW), NPSF has prepared a suggested list of activities to consider and/or implement at your organization.

### INCREASE PATIENT SAFETY AT YOUR ORGANIZATION

- Join the National Patient Safety Foundation's [Stand Up for Patient Safety™ program](#)
- Announce award programs and incentives.
- Provide a drop box for suggestions from staff to improve patient safety.
- Conduct a survey of staff about their safety concerns and recommendations.
- Hold an information session about patient safety.
- Hold a roundtable discussion with staff to discuss safety concerns.
- Include patient safety in medical professional school curricula.
- Bring in a patient/family speaker to speak to staff about an experience with a medical error and about prevention.
- Establish a Patient and Family Advisory Council in your hospital.

### PARTNER WITH PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

#### I. **Communicate:**

- Offer a suggestion box for patients and families.
- Hold an open house, brown bag lunch, or round table discussion for patients and families with a patient safety topic of discussion.
- Conduct surveys for the public to express their concerns about healthcare safety.
- Provide a journal or message board for patients to write down their stories and/or concerns.

#### II. **Educate:**

- Distribute literature in the lobby.
- Distribute medication safety pamphlets.
- Host a panel presentation and discussion.
- Invite speakers to come and speak about healthcare issues.
- Show educational films.
- Have a pharmacist available to answer questions in the lobby.
- Invite patients to bring their medications for review by a pharmacist.
- Empower patients by providing information on what they can do if they experience an error.

#### III. **Engage:**

- Distribute pillboxes with the days of the week, imprinted with a safety message and the name of the organizations.
- Distribute business cards or tent cards that read "Time to Clean out Your Medicine Cabinet of Expired Medications".
- Distribute wallet cards for patients to write down and carry with them all medications and phone numbers for providers and pharmacies.

### UTILIZE MEDIA AND MARKETING

- Tape a radio show on your local station about patient safety.
- Sponsor a resolution to declare March 7-13, 2010 National Patient Safety Awareness Week.
- Include a reminder about Patient Safety Awareness Week and safety tips with medical bills and paychecks.
- Distribute press releases announcing your activities.
- Create public service announcements about communication, dialogue and partnering between patients and healthcare providers. (To help get the message out, enlist major local radio and TV stations, along with university and local community print media to provide in-kind support).
- Submit editorials, first-person stories, and op-ed pieces for local papers and newsletters.

### INVOLVE YOUR COMMUNITY

- Introduce departments and services within your hospital to the patient and family population (such as ethics committees, social work, ombudsman programs, etc.).
- Use your volunteers, civic groups and community groups to help pass out literature, write editorials and post signs and posters throughout the community.
- Encourage educational and motivational speakers to go into businesses or to civic meetings (senior groups, PTA's, religious institutions) and speak about healthcare safety, or line them up for your own events!
- Hold an open house for civic groups and local residents to meet the staff, visit emergency rooms and see your facility BEFORE they need it.
- Include patient safety curriculum in high-schools emphasizing "how to be an aware patient."