

About the *Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory*

OBJECTIVE

The *Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory* provides timely original scientific evidence and reviews of scientific evidence that can be used by healthcare systems and providers to improve healthcare delivery systems and educate providers about safe healthcare practices. The emphasis is on problems reported to the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority, especially those associated with a high combination of frequency, severity, and possibility of solution; novel problems and solutions; and problems in which urgent communication of information could have a significant impact on patient outcomes.

PUBLISHING INFORMATION

The *Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory* (ISSN 1941-7144) is published quarterly, with periodic supplements, by the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority. This publication is produced by ECRI Institute and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices under contract to the Authority.

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Current and previous issues are available online at <http://www.patientsafetyauthority.org>.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

This publication is disseminated by e-mail at no cost to the subscriber. To subscribe, go to <http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?m=1103390819542&p=oi>.

INDEX INFORMATION

The *Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory* is indexed in NLM Catalog (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog>), a service of the US National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health.

The *Advisory* is also indexed in the CINAHL® Plus and CINAHL Plus with Full Text databases.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority works with the Pennsylvania Medical Society to offer AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ for selected portions of the *Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory* through the online publication *Studies in Patient Safety*. Go to <http://www.pamedsoc.org> to find out more about patient safety continuing medical education opportunities.

The Authority also works with the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association to offer nursing continuing education credits for selected portions of the *Advisory*. Go to <https://psna.hostingharrisburg.com> to view the course catalog.

CONSIDERATION OF SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS

Letters to the editor. In order to provide open critique and feedback, the *Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory* welcomes letters to the editor, either in response to previous published articles or as questions, comments, or alternative opinions consistent with the objectives of the *Advisory*. Correspondence should be addressed to PO Box 706, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-0706, USA, or support_papsrs@pa.gov. All correspondence must include the author's name and contact information. All letters will be acknowledged. The decision to publish a letter is at the discretion of the editor, who also reserves the right to edit the correspondence. Authors will have to state any potential conflict of interest prior to publication of any correspondence, as well as conform to the confidentiality, formatting, and style requirements of the *Advisory*.

Consideration of submitted manuscripts. Manuscripts consistent with the objectives of the *Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory* are welcome. For information and guidance about submission and instructions for authors, please contact the editor.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Policy for authors. Authors are employed by contractors to the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority or the Authority itself and comply with strict conflict of interest and disclosure policies (e.g., <https://www.ecri.org/about/Pages/default.aspx>).

Policy for co-authors and reviewers. Invited reviewers of manuscripts for publication in the *Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory* are requested to disclose any potential conflicts of interest. The *Advisory* editorial staff welcomes individuals representing many different viewpoints, but needs to be aware of potential conflicts of interest to put the received commentary in the proper perspective. Potential conflicts do not imply impropriety but could either directly or indirectly, purposefully or inadvertently affect the conduct of the reviewer. Potential conflicts of interest may include but are not limited to the following: employment; consultant work; honoraria; expert testimony; ownership interests such as stocks, grants, patents, and royalties; membership on editorial boards of other journals; position as editor of a journal or other publication; and research in progress.

INFORMED CONSENT POLICY

The *Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory* informed consent policy is aligned with International Committee of Medical Journal Editors policy statement of February 2006.

Advisory articles are based on information obtained from the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System database, literature review, and voluntary interviews with subject matter experts. Reports of incidents and serious events from specific types of healthcare facilities are mandated by Pennsylvania state law. Information identifying healthcare workers and/or patients involved in events at acute care facilities is not solicited in event reports. Identifying information obtained in reports from long term care facilities is managed with strict confidentiality.

Identifying characteristics in published event narratives in *Advisory* articles are altered to protect anonymity, in a manner which does not distort their scientific meaning. This deidentification is noted in the articles, except for "good catch" reports, which are published with permission if individual care providers are identified. Provider organizations sometimes submit articles for publication and choose to identify themselves by being named authors.

STATEMENT OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

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THE PENNSYLVANIA PATIENT SAFETY AUTHORITY AND ITS CONTRACTORS



The Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority is an independent state agency created by Act 13 of 2002, the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act. Consistent with Act 13, ECRI Institute, as contractor for the Authority, is issuing this publication to advise medical facilities of immediate changes that can be instituted to reduce Serious Events and Incidents. For more information about the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority, see the Authority's website at <http://www.patientsafetyauthority.org>.



ECRI Institute, a nonprofit organization, dedicates itself to bringing the discipline of applied scientific research in healthcare to uncover the best approaches to improving patient care. As pioneers in this science for nearly 50 years, ECRI Institute marries experience and independence with the objectivity of evidence-based research. More than 5,000 healthcare organizations worldwide rely on ECRI Institute's expertise in patient safety improvement, risk and quality management, and healthcare processes, devices, procedures, and drug technology.



The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated solely to medication error prevention and safe medication use. ISMP provides recommendations for the safe use of medications to the healthcare community, including healthcare professionals, government agencies, accrediting organizations, and consumers. ISMP's efforts are built on a nonpunitive approach and systems-based solutions.