

HEALTHCARE CONSUMER STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING SAFE CARE

As a patient, you and your family can ***be aware for safe care*** by:

- **Keeping a complete list of when and why you were in the hospital.** Also, keep notes of past illnesses, any drug allergies, and all medications you take, including non-prescription drugs.
- **Asking for information about your medicine** in terms you can understand, both when your medication is prescribed by a doctor and when you receive your medication.
- **Repeating back any instructions** and the names of newly prescribed medications. Also, ask about any new medication so you understand what it is for and why it is being given to you.
- **Bringing someone with you** to listen to discussions about your care, treatment, and follow-up instructions.
- **Asking questions** if explanations, instructions, or procedures are not clearly understood, and repeating back what you are told.
- **Asking your healthcare provider** important questions like **“Have you washed your hands?”** or **“What is your name and title?”** or **“What is my name?”**
- **Asking when and how you will get the results of tests.**



Scan with your mobile device's QR Reader to access "Consumer Tips for Patients and Their Families."



An independent agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

More information is available online at www.patientsafetyauthority.org.
©2012 Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority

Patient Safety
Awareness Week
March 4-10, 2012

Sponsored by the
National Patient Safety Foundation®
www.npsf.org

