

New CMS Patient Safety Structural Measure

On August 28, 2024, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published a new **Patient Safety Structural Measure** requiring acute care hospitals to prioritize patient safety or risk reduced Medicare payments in FY27.

What this means for acute care hospitals:

- This attestation-based measure is effective with the CY25 reporting period.
- Hospitals can score up to five points for implementing 25 patient safety practices across five domains.
- The score will be publicly reported through Care Compare on Medicare.gov starting in October 2026.
- Starting in FY27, payment for healthcare services will be reduced for hospitals that do not submit their attestation data.

How the measure will work:

The measure consists of 25 best practices across five domains that hospitals must attest to, including the following:

1. Leadership Commitment Eliminating Preventable Harm

- The Board ensures adequate resources and is notified within three days of a serious event
- Conducts a system-wide safety assessment and execution of patient safety initiatives and operations

2. Strategic Planning and Organizational Policy

- Follows a strategic patient safety plan with safety goals and metrics
- Has written "Just Culture" policies and protocols
- Develops safety curriculum/competencies for all staff

3. Culture of Safety and Learning

- Conducts an annual/biannual hospital-wide safety culture survey
- Has a dedicated team that conducts safety event analysis
- Implements high-reliability practices and participates in large-scale learning networks

4. Accountability and Transparency

- Works with a Patient Safety Organization
- Tracks, reports and publicly posts patient safety metrics
- Follows a defined evidence-based communication and resolution program

5. Patient and Family Engagement

- Has a Patient and Family Advisory Council
- Provides patients with comprehensive access to their medical records and support to interpret information
- Supports the presence of family and designees as essential members of a safe care team

To view this measure click [here](#).

For questions or for more information on Patient Safety Organizations, contact the **Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety**, IHA's federally certified PSO, at:

MAPSHelp@team-IHA.org



Build your patient safety program with IHA's federally certified PSO

Federally certified since 2010, the **Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS)** is a member-directed and member-focused Patient Safety Organization (PSO) offering robust benefits for healthcare providers throughout Illinois and the Midwest. MAPS is a part of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA). Our members are organizations across the healthcare continuum working to eliminate patient safety incidents, near misses and unsafe conditions.

MAPS Benefits:

- **More Illinois hospitals are members of MAPS than any other PSO**, making comparative reports a unique and valued offering.
- **Illinois-focused strategies**, best practices, shared learnings, and community collaboration, including safe tables, webinars, user group calls, monthly newsletters, and white papers.
- **Customized dashboards** that help you build your analysis templates and create live, interactive data graphs.
- **Onboarding assistance**, including patient safety evaluation system templates, data mapping and batch uploading, members-only resources, and a staffed help desk.
- **Personalized attention.**
- **Culture of Safety Workshops.**

Join the patient safety movement – partner with IHA.

For more information contact MAPSHelp@team-ih.org or visit alliance4ptsafety.org



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