



CAPHC National Patient Safety Collaborative

Terms of Reference

Background Information:

After two cases of infant strangulation by IV tubing in Canada, Health Canada released a Notice to Hospitals, dated July 30th, 2002, that outlined a number of directives to improve patient safety regarding the use of IV tubing and monitor leads.

Subsequent to the release of this “Notice to Hospitals”, concerns were raised by child and youth health professionals across the country concerning the practical implementation of this directive.

These sentinel events, prompted the Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centres (CAPHC) and Health Canada to invite a broad cross section of stakeholders together for a one day Patient Safety Workshop on June 16, 2003, to address the important issues surrounding patient safety.

The Patient Safety Workshop was designed to address these issues and the larger issues of patient safety in a consultative and collaborative forum and brought together child and youth healthcare professionals from across Canada. The workshop was organized with several key objectives in mind:

- To acknowledge and link our common goals and priorities for patient safety;
- To respond to Health Canada’s Notice to Hospitals dated July 30th, 2002 regarding the Risk of Strangulation of Infants by IV Tubing and Monitor Leads and
- To develop a framework for continued partnerships and communication around patient safety issues.

CAPHC National Patient Safety Collaborative

Purpose: To provide a national forum to unite individuals, groups, and organizations to facilitate partnerships, improve communication and, when appropriate, undertake collective action to improve patient safety for children and youth

Mandate: CAPHC, a national, not for profit organization of multi-disciplinary health professionals that provide care for children, youth and families, has identified patient safety as one of its national priorities. Under the direction of the CAPHC Board of Directors, the members of the National Patient Safety Collaborative cooperate to promote and enhance patient safety for children and youth nationally and internationally

Goals and Objectives of the National Patient Safety Collaborative are:

1. To “guide” CAPHC’s decision-making process concerning patient safety related initiatives or requests for endorsement;
2. To serve as an advisory/consultation mechanism for CAPHC members and national partners (e.g. Health Canada and others) in the area of patient safety;
3. To increase the profile of patient safety issues and challenges in relation to promoting the well-being of child and youth health;
4. To promote and facilitate ongoing education, research and knowledge translation opportunities;
5. To identify current and emerging patient safety issues;
6. To build Critical mass to advance or leverage common goals and objectives;
7. To Establish national linkages and develop national and international partnerships with organizations that have common goals and objectives; (e.g. Health Canada, Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF), Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Canadian Institute of Child Health (CICH), National Association of Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutes (NACHRI) etc);
8. To promote opportunities for multi-site research to generate new knowledge in the area of child and youth related patient safety;
9. To identify best practices and establish national child and youth patient safety standards (indicators); and
10. To establish a formal national mechanism for knowledge dissemination (e.g.; Web site- List serve, newsletters, publications, workshops & symposia, video-conferencing etc)

Membership: Membership will be opened to all members of CAPHC, Health Canada, and/or other provincial and national organizations with a specific expertise and/or interest in patient safety. Membership will represent child and youth health centres/organizations from coast to coast with multidisciplinary representation.

Liaising with the CAPHC Board of Directors : The Chairperson of the committee will be a member of the CAPHC Board of Directors and will provide regular feedback regarding ongoing activities and/or recommendations from the national patient safety collaborative. Board approval will be required prior to implementation of national initiatives and/or release of any formal endorsements.

Frequency of Meetings/Teleconferences: The National Patient Safety Collaborative will meet monthly via teleconference to be arranged through CAPHC's national office. Workshops, symposia and/or other events will be planned at the time of CAPHC's annual meetings and will be opened to all CAPHC members and partners.