

INFORMATION PAPER
ON
DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY AND VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
PATIENT SAFETY COLLABORATION

BACKGROUND: The Defense Health Agency (DHA) Patient Safety Program (PSP) is aligned to Health Care Administration, Medical Affairs, Clinical Support Division, under Clinical Quality Management. Our mission is to promote a culture of safety to end preventable patient harm by engaging, educating, and equipping patient-care teams to put evidence-based safe practices in place across the organization. The PSP serves as enabling expertise while building organizational commitment and capacity to implement and sustain a culture of safety to ensure safe, reliable care anytime, anywhere—always.

Our four functional areas include: 1) Managing Patient Safety Events, 2) Supporting a Learning Organization, 3) Fostering a Culture of Safety, and 4) Coordinating Infection Prevention & Control (IPC), Antimicrobial Stewardship (ASP), and Pharmacovigilance (PVC).

For more information access the [Patient Safety Learning Center](#) [CAC Required].

TOPIC: DHA and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Patient Safety (PS) collaboration consists of three primary focus areas:

1. Joint Incentive Fund
2. Medication Administration Safety Process Improvement
3. Additional Collaborative Efforts

DISCUSSION:

1. Joint Incentive Fund (JIF) – In 2018, VHA adopted the Joint Patient Safety Reporting (JPSR) system. In 2023, DHA and VHA were awarded a FY23 JIF project with 5-year sustainment for modernization of JPSR patient safety and quality processes across DHA, VHA, and USTRANSCOM Patient Movement. This will result in a single integrated IT solution with a more front-line reporter friendly module and new Comprehensive Systematic Analysis (CSA) module in a cloud environment. This will increase efficiency in reporting and data analysis, provide capability to share data, Lessons Learned, and access a leading practice repository to build stronger safety processes that mitigate future patient harm.
2. Medication Administration Safety Process Improvement - With MHS GENESIS Implementation, all military Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs) now have Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA) capability with data analytics that support workflow improvements and safer patient outcomes. Additional efforts include data tracking on Medication Reconciliation compliance and processes and development of a joint IV Infusion Medication Safety Guidebook and Tracer.
3. Additional Areas of Collaboration – DHA and VHA will collaborate to address efforts in response to the September 2023 President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) Report to The President: “A Transformation Effort on Patient Safety.” In addition, we continue to collaborate on PS Lessons Learned regarding the electronic health record roll-out, Focused Reviews on PSP data trends, Patient Safety Communications (Alerts/Advisories and Notices), and VHA Community Care and DHA Private Sector Care.