



SAFETY ISSUE

Volume 4; Issue 1

MISSION: To provide creative culture solutions to improve patient safety



PURPOSE OF THIS NOTIFICATION

- Increase awareness of topic
- Provide actionable items to review and mitigate potential harm.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Nursing, Medical & other Clinical Leaders

Clinical Educators

Patient Safety/Quality Improvement Leaders

Legal/Risk Management

Organization Leaders in:

- Hospitals
- EMS
- LTC
- Home Care

NEXT STEPS

- Share this watch with the target audience
- Promote daily safety briefings
- Continue to share incidents, near misses and unsafe conditions with the Center for Patient Safety

CONTACT

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The Center for Patient Safety is issuing this notification regarding:

SAFETY WATCH: Fatigue

The effects of fatigue include:

- Lapses in attention and inability to remain focused
- Confusion
- Impaired communication
- Compromised problem solving
- Memory lapses



ACTIONABLE ITEMS TO MITIGATE RISK

- Review policies pertaining to off shift hours and consecutive shift work to ensure they address extended work hours
- Review hand-off processes as they are a time of high patient safety risk
- Create and implement a fatigue management plan
- Educate staff on the effects of fatigue on patient safety



THE CULTURE CONNECTION

- Ask your staff if they have concerns regarding the effect of fatigue on their care
- Encourage staff to use teamwork strategies such as second/double checking of critical tasks
- Consider fatigue as a contributing factor to adverse events during the next Patient Safety Huddle/Briefing



RESOURCES

- The Joint Commission Sentinel Event Alert Issue 48, December 14, 2011. Health care worker fatigue and patient safety
- Healthcare Worker Fatigue: Current Strategies for Prevention
- Effects of Health Care Provider Work Hours and Sleep Deprivation on Safety and Performance

MORE INFO

Contact us at 573.636.1014 or view this issue at www.centerforpatientsafety.org/v4-1