

The Ethical Guiding Principals to improve Patient Safety

Preamble

The Aktionsbündnis Patientensicherheit e.V. (APS) strives to improve patient safety and encourages active participation from every organization. To ease participation in our common movement, we developed Ethical Guiding Principles to improve Patient Safety. These Guiding Principles are developed for all who are actively involved in health care on all levels of responsibility, and resultantly have a strong influence on patient safety.

The Guiding Principles to improve Patient Safety are designed to support individuals in healthcare and serve as a supplement to the institutional safety guidelines. They are not designed to replace the established rules, regulations, or current guidelines.

The APS is aware that these Guiding Principles cannot encompass every possible patient safety situation. We hope that the Guiding Principles serve as a framework and a supplement to the current guidelines with the goal of improving patient safety.

Patient safety is a reflection of effective collaboration and shared responsibility of individuals and teams who are active in patient care. The APS reviews the Guiding Principles regularly and strives to eliminate deviations in a timely manner. Members of Aktionsbündnis Patientensicherheit are encouraged to report discrepancies to the regulating board.

The Ethical Guiding Principals to improve Patient Safety

1. Our actions are focused on patient well-being.

2. We foster patient autonomy and active participation in maintaining a safe environment of patient care.

We work truthfully and constructively together to bring our
3. individual contributions with the goal of ensuring patient safety.

4. We share all available information that are relevant to patient safety.

5. We strive to continually increase our competency in patient safety and acquire these competencies early in our career.

6. We are responsible for the recognition of risks within the patient care environment, communicate these risks and modify our actions accordingly.

7. In positions of leadership we collaborate in all policies and procedures pertinent to patient safety, monitor them regularly and are responsible for providing the resources necessary to assure that patient safety remains a priority.

Descriptions of the ethical guidelines to improve patient safety

1. We focus our actions primarily on the well-being of patients.

This involves respectful and valuable interaction with patients. Individual interests, regardless of the form, will not be placed before the safety and well-being of the patient. All medical interventions are based on this principle.

When errors occur, the focus lies in preventing further errors or injury to the patient, informing the patient of the error, and taking individual responsibility for the error.

2. We foster patient autonomy and active participation in maintaining a safe environment of patient care.

This includes the patient centered communication including the use of appropriate language so that patients and their family members are able to formulate questions and can participate actively the patient's care. Patients must have the ability to participate in every healthcare decision.

3. We work truthfully and constructively together to bring our individual contributions with the goal of ensuring patient safety.

Every group involved in patient care will be respected. The competencies of every group will be utilized, independent of their title or job description. Decisions involving patient safety will be made in the patient environment, not from administrative offices. This means that the expertise of all groups will be utilized in order to ensure a high level of patient safety. This implies that all persons involved have the responsibility of maintaining an overview of the patient's course of care. A trusting environment means that discussion of errors and risks are integrated into the patient safety plan

4. We share all available information that are relevant to patient safety

In addition to discussing individual patient risks, we are responsible for discussing general risks and errors and medical error prevention. This means information will be shared in an effort to prevent future errors and reduce risk. We respect patient confidentiality and autonomy through anonymous reporting.

Daily routine and care course will be regularly reviewed for weaknesses and potential sources of errors.



5. We strive to continually increase our competency in patient safety and acquire these competencies early in our career.

Regardless of experience (students, managers, employees with long term experience), patient safety is implemented early and regularly as a cornerstone in healthcare competency. Throughout one's healthcare career, patient safety is continually integrated. An active participation has to be encouraged.

6. We are responsible for the recognition of risks within the patient care environment, communicate these risks and modify our actions accordingly

Where people work, errors occur. As a result, the environment will be routinely evaluated to find potential error sources in an effort to reduce risks and potential harm. Especially in potentially long periods without significant errors, we should remain alert. It is essential to promote a culture where errors can be openly discussed without the fear of ridicule or punishment. Open communication about errors promotes learning opportunities and development of strategies to avoid future errors.

7. In positions of leadership we collaborate in all policies and procedures pertinent to patient safety, monitor them regularly and are responsible for providing the resources necessary to assure that patient safety remains a priority

Patient safety is a task of leadership. The implementation of patient safety in the center of patient care is the reflection of an open and proactive safety culture. Here is quintessential that patient safety is integrated at all levels, creating an environment that protects those active in the healthcare system from making mistakes. This involves analysis of all areas where individuals are active. These areas include workplace, social environments, technical aspects, and healthcare teams.

Those responsible, provide an infrastructure that allows a flexible, fast, and qualified response to errors and problems, thereby promoting a resilience, and allowing differentiation within the complex system of patient healthcare

Aktionsbündnis Patientensicherheit e.V. (APS)

The APS is a network promoting safer healthcare in Germany. Employees and individuals from all healthcare groups and institutions, patient organizations and interested individuals have taken responsibility to develop collaborative solutions and recommendations with the goal of improving patient safety within medical and healthcare environments. The solutions and recommendations are available to all.

The APS stands for:

- Trust through independence
- Bundling competence of all areas of Healthcare
- Interdisciplinary and interprofessional networking
- Our principle: from the practice for the practice

IMPRESSUM

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Aktionsbündnis Patientensicherheit e.V.

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