



Nevada State Health Division Technical Bulletin



Topic: Assembly Bill 280 (2011 Legislative Session)

Section/Program/Contact: Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance/Health Facilities/Paul Shubert

Date: August 2011

TO: Hospitals, Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Obstetric Centers and Independent Centers for Emergency Care

This technical bulletin is being provided to assist with immediate implementation of Assembly Bill 280 (AB 280).

Bill Summary:

AB 280 modifies laws concerning patient safety committees in medical facilities defined in NRS 439.805. Current laws require these medical facilities to adopt patient safety plans and establish patient safety committees (NRS 439.865, 439.875). The new law requires patient safety committees to develop patient safety checklists and policies, to improve patient outcomes. The new law also requires patient safety committees to review and revise those checklists at least annually. The new law also requires annual reporting by the patient safety committees to the Legislative Committee on Health Care. Lastly, the new law allows sanctions to be applied when a facility fails to comply. These new requirements must be implemented immediately as the effective date for AB 280 is July 1, 2011.

Medical facilities must adopt patient safety checklists and policies for use by:

- providers of health care who provide treatment to patients at the medical facility;
- other personnel of the medical facility who provide treatment or assistance to patients;
- employees of the medical facility who do not provide treatment to patients but whose duties affect the health or welfare of the patients at the facility, including, without limitation, a janitor of the medical facility; and
- persons with whom the medical facility enters into a contract to provide treatment to patients or to provide services which may affect the health or welfare of patients at the facility.

Patient safety checklists must follow protocols to improve the health outcomes of patients at the medical facility and must include, without limitation:

- checklists related to specific types of treatment, including review to ensure the treatment provided was properly ordered.
- checklists for ensuring that employees of the medical facility and contractors with the medical facility who are not providers of health care follow protocols to ensure that the room and environment of the patient is sanitary.
- a checklist to be used when discharging a patient from the facility which includes, without limitation, verifying that the patient received: (1) proper instructions concerning prescription medications, (2) instructions concerning aftercare and (3) any other instructions concerning his or her care upon discharge.
- any other checklists which may be appropriate to ensure patients safety at the medical facility.

Patient safety policies must include:

- a policy for appropriately identifying a patient before providing treatment, such a policy must require the patient to be identified with at least two personal identifiers before each interaction with a health care provider, the personal identifiers may include, the name and birth date of the patient.

- a policy regarding nationally recognized standards to be followed by health care providers, including rules related to hand washing.
- a policy to ensure compliance with the patient safety checklists and patient safety policies, which may include, a system for reporting violations, peer-to-peer communication, video monitoring and audits for sanitation.

The patient safety committee shall:


- monitor and document the effectiveness of the patient identification policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 3.
- at least annually, review the patient safety checklists and patient safety policies adopted pursuant to this section and consider any additional patient safety checklists and patient safety policies that may be appropriate for adoption for use at the facility.
- revise a patient safety checklist and patient safety policy adopted pursuant to this section as necessary to ensure that the checklist or policy, reflects the most current standards in patient safety protocols.
- on or before July 1 of each year, submit a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Committee on Health Care. The report must include information regarding the development, revision and usage of the patient safety checklists and patient safety policies and a summary of the annual review conducted by the facility.

The patient safety committee must adopt patient safety checklists and patient safety policies and review/revise them annually. The patient safety plan developed pursuant to NRS 439.865 must include, without limitation, the patient safety checklists and patient safety policies.


For more detailed information, please visit the following websites:

http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/76th2011/Bills/AB/AB280_EN.pdf

<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec800>

Signed: 
Tracey Green, MD, State Health Officer
Nevada State Health Division

Date: August 1, 2011

Signed: 
Richard Whitley, MS, Administrator
Nevada State Health Division

Date: August 1, 2011