

What's New in the Patient Safety World

February 2017

Manitoba Institute of Patient Safety S.A.F.E. Toolkit for Patients

We're always looking for good tools we can use when we are doing adult learning sessions on patient safety for patients and families. Recently we came across several useful tools from the Manitoba Institute of Patient Safety. Their S.A.F.E. Toolkit – Self Advocacy for Everyone has available both [the toolkit](#) and a [guide for leaders](#) of structured sessions on the toolkit.

Topics in the toolkit are:

1. Know Your Patient Rights
2. Choose Your Patient Advocate
3. Know Your Healthcare Plan
4. Access Your Medical Records
5. Talk with Your Doctor
6. Work with Your Pharmacist
7. Prepare for Your Stay in Hospital
8. Prepare for Surgery
9. Prevent Falls
10. Know The Process when Harm Happens
11. Know The Patient Safety Contacts
12. Know The Steps in Stating Your Concerns
13. Know Some Patient Safety Definitions

The Leader's Guide, in particular, has many useful practical tips on how to prepare for your sessions, including checklists to help in such preparation. It includes discussion of timeframes, ground rules, presentation techniques, and even has sample evaluation forms.

The handouts for patients are excellent and comprehensive. Each helps them prepare for their various meetings with members of the healthcare team and provides them with great lists of the questions they (and their advocate) should ask. For example, the one on preparing for surgery has sections on informed consent and deciding whether to undergo surgery, pre-op testing, who will be doing the surgery and providing anesthesia, anesthesia options, preparing for the surgery, what to expect on the day of surgery, what

to expect postoperatively, etc. It even has questions to ask if procedures are to be performed in the office.

The section on patient advocates is excellent, describing not only how to choose an advocate but also discussing questions the advocate might ask, access the advocate might have to your medical records, differences between an advocate and a health care proxy, etc. It even provides a sample “My Patient Advocate Agreement”.

While some of the materials are tailored for the Canadian healthcare system(s), they are easily adaptable to those in other countries.

If your healthcare organization offers such educational sessions on patient safety for your patients and their families (as you should!), you’ll find the resources from the Manitoba Institute of Patient Safety very useful.

References:

Manitoba Institute of Patient Safety. S.A.F.E. Toolkit – Self Advocacy for Everyone.

<https://www.safetoask.ca/s.a.f.e.-toolkit.html>

Leader’s guide

https://www.safetoask.ca/assets/leaders_guide.pdf

 The
Truax
Group
Healthcare Consulting
www.patientsafetysolutions.com

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