

Patient Safety Alerts and Safer Practice Notices Definitions & Review Process

Health-care providers and leaders need the most up-to-date information available so they can continue to provide high quality, safe care.

Patient Safety Alerts (PSA) and Safer Practice Notices (SPN) are developed and issued by AHS as a way to communicate urgent patient safety information to health-care providers.

Patient Safety Alert: Used when an issue requires urgent attention and action. These alerts are rare and require feedback to the Patient Safety Department that appropriate action was taken.

Safer Practice Notices: Used to inform staff and medical staff of changes to or reminders of leading practice.

PSA and SPN are labeled as active, updated, resolved or archived:

- **Active:** is current and content considered leading practice for AHS
- **Updated:** is current and indicates the content has been updated from a previous version.
- **Resolved:** is no longer applicable as they were analyzed by a Review Committee using internal and external information sources and determined to be resolved.
 1. the identified hazard either no longer exists or has been reduced,
 2. the equipment or product is no longer in use or has been replaced
 3. leading practice has been translated into new policies and procedures
- **Archived:** created prior to 2013 and is scheduled for review as to current applicability

Review Process

- All *PSA or SPN* require review at least once every three (3) years.
- The Provincial Patient Safety Department will chair a quarterly PSA/SPN Review Committee. Each PSA and SPN will be presented to the Review Committee for examination of the event that lead to the PSA/SPN as well as actions recommended as a result of that event. Following a standardized approach, various data sources will be considered as well as current practice within AHS, to determine next steps for each PSA/SPN
- Based upon the consensus of the group, a recommendation will be made to either re-issue the updated PSA/SPN or consider the PSA/SPN resolved:
- Those PSA/SPN where the hazard still exists, but the mitigating strategies require revision shall be labelled “updated”.
- Any PSA/SPN deemed no longer applicable shall be labelled “resolved”. Resolved means that the equipment is no longer in use across AHS, the identified hazard no longer exists, or has been translated into new policies and procedures.
- An email will be sent to the identified Executive Sponsor for their review and decision to support or challenge the outcome of the Review Committee deliberations. Depending upon the decision from the Executive Sponsor, the process to re-issue or resolve the PSA or SPN will be initiated.