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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**

**Common Formats for Patient Safety Data Collection**

**AGENCY:** Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability – new common formats.

**SUMMARY:** As authorized by the Secretary of HHS, AHRQ coordinates the development of sets of common definitions and reporting formats (Common Formats or formats) for reporting on health care quality and patient safety. The purpose of this notice is to announce the availability of the Common Formats for Nursing Home Version 1.0

**DATES:** Ongoing public input.

**ADDRESSES:** the *Common Formats for Nursing Home Version 1.0* can be accessed electronically at the following website:

[https://www.psoppc.org/psoppc\\_web/publicpages/commonFormatsOverview](https://www.psoppc.org/psoppc_web/publicpages/commonFormatsOverview)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Hamid Jalal, Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, AHRQ, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857; Telephone (toll free): (866) 403-3697; Telephone (local): (301) 427-1111; TTY (toll free): (866) 438-7231; TTY (local): (301) 427-1130; E-mail: [psa@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:psa@ahrq.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

[Background on Common Formats Development](#)

The Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005, 42 U.S.C. 299b-21 to 299b-26, (Patient Safety Act) and the related Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Final Rule, 42 CFR Part 3 (Patient Safety Rule), published in the Federal Register on November 21, 2008, 73 FR 70731-70814, provide for the formation of Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs), which collect, and analyze confidential and privileged information regarding the quality and safety of health care delivery. The collection of patient safety work product allows the aggregation of data that help to identify and address underlying causal factors of patient safety and quality issues.

Aggregation of these data enables PSOs and others to identify and address underlying causal factors of patient safety and quality issues. The Patient Safety Act provides for the development of standardized reporting formats using common language and definitions to ensure that health care quality and patient safety data collected by PSOs and other entities are comparable. The Common Formats facilitate aggregation of comparable data at local, PSO, regional and national levels. In addition, the formats are intended to enhance the reporting of information that is standardized both clinically and electronically.

AHRQ has developed Common Formats for three settings of care — acute care hospitals, nursing homes, and community pharmacies — for use by health care providers and PSOs. AHRQ-listed PSOs are required to collect patient safety work product in a standardized manner to the extent practical and appropriate; this is a requirement the PSO can meet by collecting such information using Common Formats. Additionally, providers and other organizations not working with an AHRQ-

listed PSO can use the Common Formats in their work to improve quality and safety; however, they cannot benefit from the federal confidentiality and privilege protections of the Patient Safety Act.

Since February 2005, AHRQ has convened the Federal Patient Safety Work Group (PSWG) to assist AHRQ in developing and maintaining the Common Formats. The PSWG includes major health agencies within HHS as well as the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. The PSWG helps assure the consistency of definitions/formats with those of relevant government agencies. In addition, AHRQ has solicited comments from the private and public sectors regarding proposed versions of the Common Formats through a contract, since 2008, with the National Quality Forum (NQF), which is a non-profit organization focused on health care quality. After receiving comments, the NQF solicits review of the formats by its Common Formats Expert Panel. Subsequently, NQF provides this input to AHRQ who then uses it to refine the Common Formats.

The *Common Formats Nursing Home Version 1.0* include five modules: generic, falls, medication, pressure injury and device. AHRQ developed other elements of the Common Formats for Event Reporting – Nursing Homes including aggregate reports, data elements and algorithms, and technical specifications. All elements of the Common Formats for Event Reporting – Nursing Home will be posted at the PSOPPC website: [https://www.psoppc.org/psoppc\\_web](https://www.psoppc.org/psoppc_web).

AHRQ is specifically interested in receiving feedback in order to guide the improvement of the formats. Information on how to comment on the *Common Formats for Nursing Home Version 1.0* is available at:

[http://www.qualityforum.org/Project\\_Pages/Common\\_Formats\\_for\\_Patient\\_Safety\\_Data.aspx](http://www.qualityforum.org/Project_Pages/Common_Formats_for_Patient_Safety_Data.aspx).

Additional information about the Common Formats can be obtained through AHRQ's PSO website: <https://psو.ahrq.gov/>.

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