

Summer 2022: MAPS Issues Statement on Patient Safety

The Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS) mission is “Safe Care. Everywhere.” MAPS works to achieve its mission by engaging a diverse stakeholder coalition that includes an engaged Board of Directors, committed volunteer leaders, dedicated staff, and members that broadly represent Minnesota's healthcare community and patient partners. MAPS focuses on educational programming, patient safety-inspired projects, patient and family engagement, and collaboration across all care settings. At MAPS we continue to dialogue together about what safe care means and how it can best be achieved.

MAPS leaders have been attentive to the well-publicized case of a former Vanderbilt University nurse who was charged with a crime for delivering the wrong medication to a patient who subsequently died. This case has many facets beyond what can be understood by the headlines, and we believe continued dialogue that emphasizes “lessons learned” is important not just for this case but for implications on safe care everywhere.

MAPS remains committed to promoting excellence in care, a component of which is embracing a culture where errors and near misses are reported and addressed in an appropriate and timely manner. We believe that safe care allows medical providers to work in settings where they are encouraged to bring their errors forward, where a culture of reporting mistakes is a top priority, and where medical professionals respond in ways focused on how to make each care setting a safer place and can speak up without fear of inappropriate repercussion. The details of any case involving a medical error can be unsettling. Safe care requires patients and families working together with medical professionals to ensure that communication and action regarding errors are responsive, transparent, and timely.

Since its establishment in 2000, MAPS has been a leading force in new standards around informed consent, medication safety, and Just Culture in Minnesota. Today, MAPS is not only expanding these efforts but tackling other emerging topics in patient safety, including patient and family engagement,

diagnostic error, and transitions of care. Please contact us via our Executive Director, Heidi Holste at hholste@mnpatientsafety.org to learn how to get involved in MAPS. Visit our website to learn more - www.mnpatientsafety.org.