

National Performance Goals (NPGs)

The Joint Commission National Performance Goals (NPGs) replaces the National Patient Safety Goals as of January 1, 2026 as part of their Accreditation 360 initiative to simplify and streamline accreditation standards and processes. Some requirements have been organized and simplified into 14 NPGs, focusing on pressing issues in healthcare to prevent patient harm, improve outcomes and create a safer environment for all.

The NPGs:

- Incorporate existing JC requirements – there are no new requirements added.
- Elevate critical issues that go beyond minimum regulations
- Provide clear goals that hospitals can work toward to improve safety and quality.
- Support better care by aligning with real-world challenges hospitals face.

Goal 1 **The hospital ensures that the correct patient receives the correct care at the correct time.**

- Patient identification
- Critical results reporting
- Patient flow
- Handoff communication
- Clinical alarm systems
- Rapid response
- Resuscitative services
- Post-resuscitation care
- Preprocedure verification
- Procedural site marking
- Time-out procedure

Goal 2 **The governing body and leadership team foster a culture of safety.**

- Mission, vision, goals
- Conflicts of interest and ethics
- Patient safety program
- Workplace violence program

Goal 3 **The hospital has an emergency management program.**

- Management plan
- Communications
- Staffing plan
- Safety and security measures
- Resources and asset management
- Recovery plan
- Education and training
- Exercises to test and evaluation

Goal 4 **The hospital prioritizes excellent health outcomes for all.**

Goal 5 **The hospital prioritizes infection prevention and control.**

- Surveillance, prevention and control activities
- High-consequence infectious diseases or special pathogens preparedness
- Hand hygiene guidelines

Goal 6 **The hospital prioritizes pain management and safe prescribing practices.**

- Organization priority
- Pain assessment and management of patient's pain
- Data collection

Goal 7 **The hospital respects the patient's right to safe, informed care.**

- Communication – interpretation/translation services
- Informed consent
- Abuse, neglect and exploitation assessment
- Patient respect and dignity

Goal 8 **The hospital reduces the risk for suicide.**

- Environmental risk assessment
- Patient screening
- Suicide Assessment
- Risk mitigation
- Policies and Procedures

Goal 9 **The hospital develops and implements safe transplant practices.**

- Standardized procedures
- Adverse event investigation

Goal 10 **The hospital performs waived testing in a safe and consistent manner.**

- Policies and procedures
- Staff competency

Goal 11 **The hospital maintains workplace and patient safety.**

- Security risk management
- Fall risk reduction
- Utility system management

Goal 12 **The hospital is staffed to meet the needs of the patients it serves, and staff are competent to provide safe, quality care.**

- Appropriate ancillary staff
- Nursing staffing plan(s)
- Psychiatric staffing plans
- Employment requirements
- Education, training, and competency
- Performance improvement staff evaluation

Goal 13 **The hospital safely performs imaging services.**

- Staff qualifications and education
- Designated leader
- Safety risk management
- Quality improvement projects

Goal 14 **The hospital has a medication management program that focuses on safety.**

- Pharmaceutical services
- Selection and procurement
- Labeling of medications, medication containers and other solutions
- Anticoagulant therapy guidelines
- Medication reconciliation
- Antibiotic stewardship program

For more information on National Performance Goals and other standards visit Joint Commission website at jointcommission.org.