

## HealthCare Safety

Healthcare safety is and always will be a priority for Nova Scotia. We are continually working with our health partners to improve patient safety and become as close to error free as possible. There are many safeguards that have been built into our system to reduce mishaps and monitor safety — at the national, provincial, and health system levels.

### Health Safety Actions

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#### National

- The Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI), a national organization focused on improving patient safety, has provided grants for safety research and demonstration projects
- CPSI has initiated the *Safer Healthcare Now!* campaign to support the adoption of six evidence-based safety practices in Canadian hospitals.
- Nova Scotians are participating in national organizations focused on quality and safety

#### Provincial (past year)

- The provincial Healthcare Safety Advisory Committee is working to help advance patient safety and focus on safety priorities
- Information on healthcare safety and quality is available on the Department of Health website
- Nova Scotia hosted an education series on patient safety for healthcare executives
- A provincial policy on the disclosure of adverse events has been implemented in district health authorities and emergency health services to support patients and their families when adverse events occur
- Nova Scotia was a leader in initiating the annual national symposia on patient safety
- The Department of Health continues to provide sponsorship for hospitals' involvement in the national *Safer Healthcare Now!* Campaign
- Quality review guidelines for use by the District Health Authorities in improving care have been developed
- Nova Scotia participated in the Canadian patient safety week campaign promoting handwashing and encouraging patients to ask questions about their care

#### Health System

- Hospitals, emergency health services, nursing homes and home care agencies have incident reporting systems in place
- An expert provincial Drugs and Therapeutics committee reviews report on products
- Paramedics have access to a physician for consultation 24/7
- District health authorities and the IWK have quality committees at the senior level
- District Health Authorities and the IWK voluntarily participate in the national health services accreditation program
- All hospitals receive advisories and warnings relegated to drug products, medical devices and foods from Health Canada, individual manufactures and other safety agencies
- Safety reviews and audits are conducted regularly
- Fire and disaster plans are maintained
- Over 15 professional regulatory authorities in Nova Scotia govern the practice of health care professionals such as doctors, nurses, technologists and others
- Patients/residents and their families are encouraged to discuss concerns about care

Health care safety has become the focus of considerable study and we now know a lot more about what works to minimize hazards and errors in the health care system than ever before. We realize that safety must be addressed through collaborative efforts on a broad array of strategies.