Why a Policy Framework?

CPSI acts as a catalyst, integrator and champion of patient safety in Canada. But improving patient safety requires a shift in our collective cultures, values and expectations at every level of our complex system – a system which has often-competing priorities and varying resources, access and needs.

So how do we do that? With the help of Strengthening Commitment for Improvement Together: A Policy Framework for Patient Safety. This framework is intended to serve as a road map to improve patient safety by stimulating action on these key policy levers.

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What’s included in the framework

The framework is organized from aim to action, making it an easy-to-follow guide:

- **Policy Aim:** Safest Care in the World
- **Policy Actions**
- **Policy Context**
- **Guiding Principles for Patient Safety**
- **Policy Levers for Patient Safety**
- **Measures of Success**
- **Knowledge to Action**

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Guiding Principles

The framework was built around several guiding principles that are intended to stimulate conversation and inspire action. This is what Canadian healthcare must achieve.

- A caring and just culture is established at all levels
- Supportive and engaged leadership promotes a culture of safety
- Mechanisms for measuring and monitoring safety are integral for improvement
- Patients and families are actively engaged and empowered
- Professional associations and regulatory bodies promote and enforce patient safety practice standards
- Healthcare organizations support an open safety culture, enable transparency and reporting, and involve patients and families at every level
- Patient safety awareness increases among Canadians
- Patient safety is a priority across health systems in Canada

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Measures of Success

How will we know if the framework is working? We’ve identified some key measures of success, including:

- Provinces and territories advance patient safety through legislation that ensures transparency in the reporting and disclosure of patient safety incidents.
- Canada-wide monitoring systems consistently measure and report on safety, as well as the rates and scale of harm, using shared definitions.
- Professional associations and regulatory bodies require patient safety into their professional standards of practice and professional development tools and strategies.
- All professional licensing requirements include patient safety practice standards.
- Organizational practices promote and enforce patient safety, incorporating health standards across Canada and measured through accreditation.
- Healthcare organizations support an open safety culture, enable transparency and reporting, and involve patients and families at every level.
- Patient safety awareness increases among Canadians.
- Patient safety is a priority across health systems in Canada.

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How we created the framework

CPSI took a qualitative approach to identify policy levers, outline guiding principles, and determine measures of success. We conducted a literature review of academic and other sources.

Our Policy, Legal and Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee – leaders and experts from medicine, nursing, regulatory bodies, governments and non-government organizations, and patient partners – informed its development, and offered feedback and guidance throughout.

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