Both the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Patient Safety Organization Privacy Protection Center (PSOPPC) provide resources for PSOs and users of AHRQ Common Formats. We have provided a summary of a few key resources below.

AHRQ Common Formats

AHRQ coordinates the development of Common Formats for reporting patient safety events to PSOs. In collaboration with the Federal Patient Safety Work Group (PSWG), AHRQ has developed Common Formats for four settings of care – acute care hospitals, nursing homes, surveillance, and retail pharmacy. More development information can be found here:

Hospital Common Formats

Version 1.1: Event Descriptions, Sample Reports, and Forms

Available at:
https://www.psoppc.org/psoppc_web/publicpages/commonFormatsOverview

Version 1.2: Event Descriptions, Sample Reports, and Forms

Available at:
https://www.psoppc.org/psoppc_web/publicpages/supportingDocsV1.2

Version 1.1: Technical Specifications

Available at:
https://www.psoppc.org/psoppc_web/publicpages/commonFormatsOverview

Version 1.2: Technical Specifications

Available at:
https://www.psoppc.org/psoppc_web/publicpages/commonFormatsV1.2

Nursing Home Common Formats

Version 0.1 Beta: Event Descriptions, Sample Reports, and Forms

Available at:
https://www.psoppc.org/psoppc_web/publicpages/nursinghomeV1.0

Surveillance Common Formats

Version 0.1 Beta: Event Descriptions, and Population Report Shells

Available at:
https://www.psoppc.org/psoppc_web/publicpages/surveillancecommonformats

Community Pharmacy Common Formats

Version 0.1 Beta: Event Description, and Aggregate Report Shell

Available at:
https://www.psoppc.org/psoppc_web/publicpages/commonFormatsCPV1.0

Data Submission

The PSOPPC is now accepting patient safety event data from PSOs. Patient safety event data may be submitted by a PSO to the PSOPPC for nonidentification and transmission of the data to the Network of Patient Safety Databases (NPSD). The PSOPPC is accepting patient safety event data in the format outlined in the AHRQ Common Formats Version 1.1 and Version 1.2 Technical Specifications.

Data submission resources available to PSOs are available on the Data Submission page on the PSOPPC Website. Additionally, users may contact the PSOPPC Help Desk for assistance at support@psoppc.org, or toll free at (866) 571-7712.

In addition to the above documents, a Data Dictionary for the Common Formats data elements is available from the PSOPPC Website Common Formats Technical Specifications page (V1.1 and V1.2). The Data Dictionary defines the Common Formats data elements and their attributes (data element name and ID, answer codes and values, HL7 data type, Guide for Use, etc.)

Legislation, Regulations, and Guidance

Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 (Patient Safety Act): An Overview

The goals of the Patient Safety Act are to encourage the expansion of voluntary, provider-driven initiatives to improve the quality and safety of healthcare; to promote rapid learning about the underlying causes of risks and harms in the delivery of healthcare; and to share those findings widely, thus speeding the pace of improvement.

Patient Safety Act Resources:

To read the Patient Safety Act, go to
http://www.pso.ahrq.gov/legislation/act

To read the Patient Safety Rule, go to
http://www.pso.ahrq.gov/legislation/rule

To read the Patient Safety Guidance, go to
http://www.pso.ahrq.gov/legislation/guidance

Patient Safety Organization Information

PSO forms are available for organizations applying to become a PSO and for listed PSOs seeking to meet the statutory requirements of the Patient Safety Rule: https://www.pso.ahrq.gov/forms.

To assist PSOs in making the required attestations and preparing for a compliance review, AHRQ has developed the Patient Safety Organizations: A Compliance Self-Assessment Guide to suggest approaches for thinking systematically about the scope of the requirements in the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Final Rule and what compliance may mean for an individual PSO.

PSO Fast Facts

AHRQ has received many questions regarding the implementation of the Patient Safety Rule and about PSOs. In response to these questions, and in anticipation of additional inquiries, frequently asked questions and corresponding answers are available at: https://www.pso.ahrq.gov/faq.

Technical Assistance

Contact the PSOPPC Help Desk for additional technical assistance via email at support@psoppc.org, or via phone at (866) 571-7712, Mon-Fri, 9am – 5:30pm, ET. You can also submit an inquiry via our Contact Us page on the PSOPPC website.