

PSI 28: Medication Error	
Origin: Review of an OECD PSI (33)	
Dimension	Description
Description of Specific Aspects of Patient Safety	Medication errors are known to be fairly common but preventable events. Medication errors refer to errors in processes of ordering, transcribing, dispensing, administering, or monitoring medications. Many medication errors are thought to have no or few consequences for the patient's health by health care workers also many medication errors are thought undetected. Though medication errors may result in serious patient morbidity or mortality. Patient compliance has an impact on preventing medication errors. Medication errors are a suitable theme for measuring patient safety.
Aim of the PSI	This PSI is intended to flag cases of in-hospital medication errors.
Level of Determination of Patient Safety	Safety is assessed at the aggregated patient level.
Source(s)	Originally a JCAHO sentinel event indicator
Extent of Clinically Testing	The OECD Health Care Quality Indicators (HCQI) Project was initiated to implement quality measures for international benchmarking of medical care at the health system level. Five priority areas including patient safety were selected. International expert panels were formed to identify clinically important, scientifically sound, and feasible measures based on a structured consensus process. The consensus process was successfully completed in all five priority areas leading to a recommendation of 86 indicators of which 21 cover patient safety (33).
Evidence of Clinically use of Standards	No evidence of clinically use of standards was found.
PSI category	Theme Related PSI: "Medication Errors".
Data definitions	Not specified by OECD.
Numerator Description	Number of patient deaths, paralysis, coma, or other major permanent loss of function associated with a medical error.
Denominator Description	<i>According to the SimPatIE Stepwise Assessment Indicator Framework Approach, this PSI is not described further as the denominator is not defined by OECD or by JACHO.</i>