What is Patient Safety?

Patient Safety is the reduction of risk and prevention of harm to patients/clients/residents receiving health care (Canadian Institute for Health Information [CIHI], 2016; World Health Organization [WHO], 2021). Focusing on patient safety is fundamental to delivering quality care and services.

Quick Facts on Patient Safety:

1. In 2019-2020, 1 in 18 hospital stays in Canada involved at least one harmful event (CIHI, 2021).
2. Medication errors are the leading cause of injury and avoidable harm in health care systems (WHO, 2019).
3. At least 1 out of every 7 Canadian dollars is spent treating the effects of patient harm in hospital care (WHO, 2019).
4. Patient safety incidents are the third leading cause of death in Canada (Canadian Patient Safety Institute, 2020).

Health PEI is committed to continually monitoring and improving the quality and safety of care and services provided to Islanders.

For more information on quality and patient safety, visit Health PEI's Staff Resource Centre at
https://src.healthpei.ca/patient-safety