

Declaration of Patient and Family Engagement in Patient Safety

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety believes it is important for patients and families to engage in their healthcare. Their efforts help to reduce patient harm and improve patient safety.

The aims of this declaration are to:

- Help patients and families be more involved in their care decisions
- Confirm that patient values and input are key parts of a culture of patient safety
- Support efforts that include patient values in healthcare policies and actions

Patient safety refers to actions taken to prevent harm to patients that result from healthcare services. Everyone has a role to play in patient safety. Healthcare providers, facilities, and the public can take actions to improve patient safety.

Patient and family centred care adds to the safety of patients. In patient and family centred care, providers listen to and respect patient and family values, views, needs, wishes and choices. There is timely sharing of patient facts to help with care decisions. Patients and families decide how much they want to participate. Their input is of value at many levels such as writing policy and planning programs.

Patients can learn about their health conditions. They can also learn how to be more involved in their care. Patient and family engagement helps:

- Reduce the risk of unplanned harm related to care
- Improve their safety as patients
- Get the best possible health results

Engaging in patient safety means that patients and families are involved in their healthcare. Examples are:

- Give input on how healthcare settings are designed to respect patient needs
- Be a member of groups to have a say in how care is delivered
- Be a respected member of one's care team

To participate in their care, patients and families need to:

- Know values to look for and to apply in healthcare
- Know how to work as partners with care providers
- Know patient rights and responsibilities

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety (MIPS) has tools to guide patients and families on how to engage in their healthcare. These tools include:

- [*Patient Values*](#)
- [*Principles of Partnership*](#)
- [*Rights and Responsibilities*](#)

To learn more about patient and family engagement in patient safety and about resources and tips, go to www.safetoask.ca and www.mips.ca