



Medication Safety and Adverse Drug Event Prevention

Adverse drug events (ADEs) are a leading cause of preventable patient harm. An ADE is an injury resulting from medical intervention related to a drug. This may include patient harm directly caused by a drug through a medication error, adverse drug reaction, allergic reaction or an overdose.¹ National estimates suggest that ADEs contribute an additional \$3.5 billion to US health care costs annually. With an increasing number of the Medicare population taking prescription medications and seeing multiple providers, medication safety in all health care settings is essential to care coordination and improving the health of Medicare beneficiaries.

The **New England QIN-QIO** collaborates with national and state professional organizations and partners with providers and pharmacies across all care settings throughout New England. In addition, we provide education, tools and resources that support:

- evidence-based strategies for medication therapy management;
- medication reconciliation post discharge; and
- a safety focus on high risk medication, including diabetic agents, anti-coagulants, and opioids.

The **Medication Safety and Adverse Drug Event Prevention** initiative is aligned with the National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention and offers an opportunity to better understand the magnitude of ADEs on a local level, improve medication practices, implement evidence-based interventions and reduce ADEs across New England.

This initiative builds on the work in the *Coordination of Care Communities* and brings together pharmacists, nurses, physicians from all care settings to partner with local and national pharmacy stakeholders committed to improving medication safety.

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1. Institute of Medicine Committee on Identifying and Preventing Medication Errors. Preventing Medication Errors: Quality Chasm Series. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2006.

