

## Determining the Scope of your Medication Reconciliation Project: Identifying Areas within your Organization that Administer Medications\*

Creating a list of practice settings within your organization that require compliance with The Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal 8A (admission/entry into the organization) and 8B (discharge/exit from the organization) can help you determine the scope of your project.

Practice Settings/Areas that Administer Medications	Types of Patients these Areas Serve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inpatients</li> <li>▪ Outpatients</li> <li>▪ Both Inpatients and Outpatients</li> </ul>	Do These Practice Settings also Discharge Patients? Yes / No
<i>[Example: Inpatient Nursing units serving general medicine patients].</i>	<i>[Example: Inpatients]</i>	<i>[Example: Yes]</i>
<i>[Example: Ambulatory Surgery Unit]</i>	<i>[Example: Serve both early morning admission patients (come in day of surgery and admitted post-operatively) and same day surgery patients (outpatients that come in and go home the same day of surgery)]</i>	<i>[Example: Yes]</i>
<i>[Example: Transplant Clinic]</i>	<i>[Example: Outpatients]</i>	<i>[Example: Yes]</i>
<i>Emergency Department (ED)</i>	<i>[Example: Patients seen in the ED may be admitted (converted to inpatients) or discharged after their visit (outpatients)]</i>	<i>[Example: Yes]</i>

\*The Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal 8<sup>1,2</sup> relates to medication reconciliation and requires accredited organizations to:

**“Accurately and completely reconcile medications across the continuum of care.”**

This National Patient Safety Goal has two specific components:

**8A** - Implement a process for obtaining and documenting a complete list of the patient's current medications upon the patient's admission to the organization with the patient's participation. Additionally, compare those medications ordered for the patient while under the care of the organization.<sup>1,2</sup>

**8B** - A complete list of the patient's medications is communicated to the next provider of service when a patient is referred or transferred to another setting, service, practitioner or level of care within or outside the organization. The complete list of medications is also provided to the patient on discharge from the facility.<sup>1,2</sup>

**References:**

1. The Joint Commission: 2007 Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals: The Official Handbook. Oakbrook Terrace, IL: Joint Commission Resources, 2007, p. NPSG-6-7
2. Frequently Asked Questions for The Joint Commission 2007 National Patient Safety Goals: Questions about Goal 8 (Reconcile Medications). Available at: [http://www.jointcommission.org/NR/rdonlyres/9ECF1ED6-E04E-41DE-B7BC-174590CEDF33/0/07\\_NPSG\\_FAQs\\_8.pdf](http://www.jointcommission.org/NR/rdonlyres/9ECF1ED6-E04E-41DE-B7BC-174590CEDF33/0/07_NPSG_FAQs_8.pdf). Accessed June 10, 2007.