

June 3, 2016

Friday Focus

Safety is No Accident

Preventable injuries are the leading cause of death for Americans under 40 years old and a leading cause of disability for Americans of all ages (National Safety Council, 2016). During National Safety Month, the National Safety Council (NSC) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) are calling all Americans' attention to common safety and health risks. A few of the key topics addressed include:

- medication safety
- driving, biking, and working safely
- first aid and emergency preparedness
- preventing slips, trips, and falls

These national initiatives provide us with both a reminder and a unique opportunity to help impact the health of our members. As health care providers and insurers, we can take a moment to look at our practices. Some of the questions we can ask ourselves include: Are medication reconciliations completed after discharges and at every visit? Have we documented the age-appropriate participatory guidance? How are we approaching the subject of advanced directives? When was the last time a functional or fall assessment was documented? Last and certainly not least, have we shared information about what our members can do to help protect themselves and others?

When we ask ourselves these questions, we need to consider (as with any Plan, Do, Check, Act [PDCA] cycle) what can we do better? The NSC has come up with a solution that addresses the issue of emergency preparedness. Between June 1 and June 12, 2016, the NSC is offering free online First Aid, CPR, and AED training. Anyone can visit the website <http://www.safetyserve.com/nsm/> and click on New Student to get started. The catch is that availability is limited and must be completed within 45 days from the date of registration.

In closing, National Safety Month is a great opportunity to get involved in sharing information about the simple steps our members and communities can take to help protect themselves and others from injuries.

To learn more about National Safety Month 2016 and how you can help spread the word, please visit <http://www.nsc.org/act/events/Pages/national-safety-month.aspx>

As always, we appreciate your ideas and feedback. Thank you for the quality work you do. All editions of the Friday Focus are available on the SWHP website: <https://swhp.org/en-us/prov/news/providers-friday-focus>

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References

National Safety Council (2016, May 31). June National Safety Month, Retrieved May 31, 2016, from <https://healthfinder.gov/nho/JuneToolkit2.aspx>

