

The MEDSAFE Project

The goal of the MEDSAFE Project, which is provided by CPS to hospitals outside the USA, is to provide a systematic assessment of key processes regarding the safe use of medications and the context within which those processes take place. The purpose is to collect and share information on various aspects of organizational readiness and strategies that exist across hospitals.

The Survey

The ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment® survey is completed by a multidisciplinary team at each participating hospital and is designed to raise awareness of the characteristics of safe pharmacy systems, to create a baseline for the enhancement of the safety of medications, and to evaluate these improvement efforts over time. The survey includes various dimensions on organizational culture; structures in place to facilitate safe practices and communication across departments; specific technologies used to prescribe, dispense, deliver, and monitor medication; and the strategies pursued by hospital leadership to promote a culture of safety and safeguard.

The Analysis

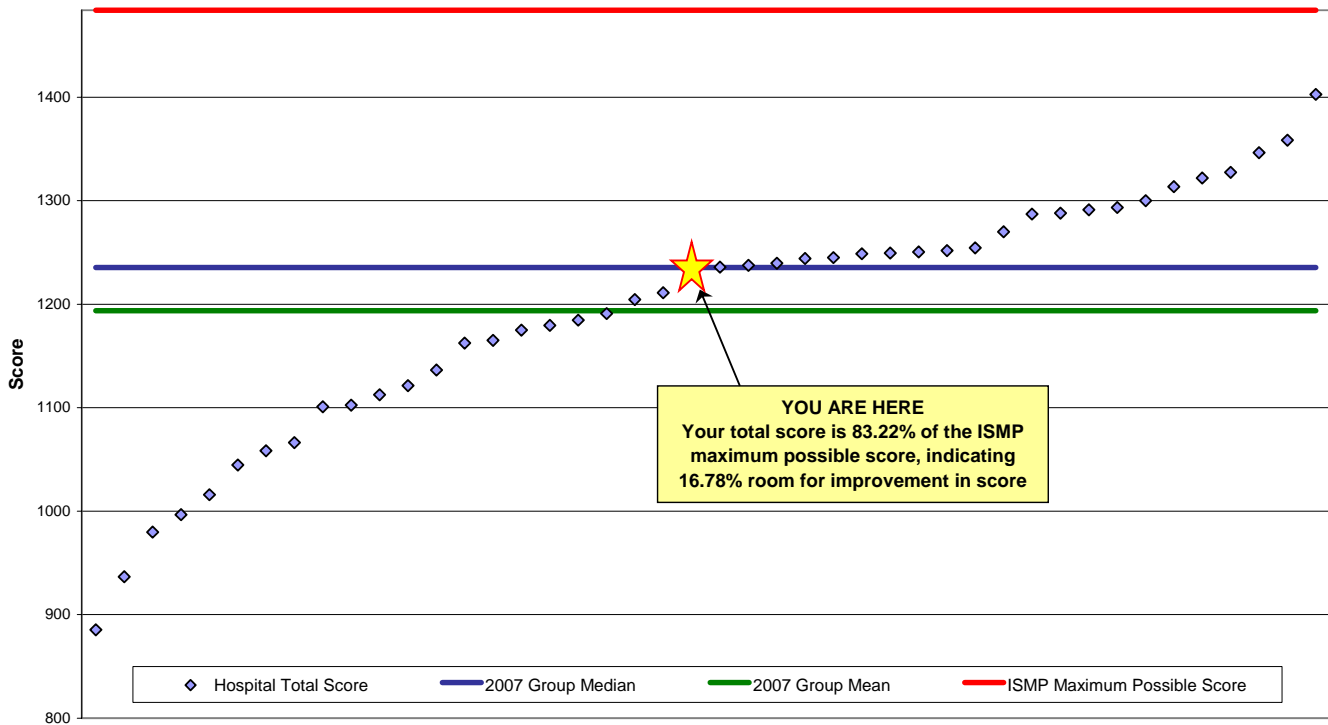
The analysis summarizes respondents' demographic profile, aggregates respondents' scores, and stratifies those scores by hospital demographics. The report also describes the profiles of medication use and organizational structures as captured by the self-assessment survey and identifies areas of variation across hospitals in all categories of the self-assessment tool.

Education and Support

The MEDSAFE Project assists hospitals in the interpretation of the own practices and encourages the adoption of strategies that have been shown to be effective. The Project also provides guidance and support to participating hospitals in identifying root causes of variation and the tools for enhancing safer practices.

Following is a brief sample of the sections included in a hospital-level MEDSAFE Project report.

2007 Comparison of Individual Hospital Total Scores to the ISMP Maximum Possible Score and the Group Mean and Median Scores



Your Hospital’s Total Score

Your hospital’s total score represents an overall achievement of 83.22% of the ISMP maximum possible score and indicates 16.78% room for improvement in your hospital’s score. The corresponding group median score represents an overall achievement of 78.5% of the ISMP maximum possible score.

Your Hospital’s Priority Areas by Key Element Scores

Your hospital’s lowest score as a percent of the ISMP maximum possible score was reported for key element I, patient information, scoring 50% of the maximum possible score. Therefore, the greatest score point gap as a percent of the ISMP maximum score was for this key element, with a gap representing 50% room for improvement in this area.

Your hospital’s lowest score as a percent of the group median score was reported for key element V, drug standardization, storage, and distribution, scoring 71.7% of the group median score, indicating 28.3% room for improvement in this key element to meet the group median score.

Your Hospital’s Priority Areas by Core Characteristic Scores

Your hospital’s lowest score as a percent of the ISMP maximum possible score was reported for core characteristic 7, scoring 38.9% of the maximum possible score. Therefore, the greatest score point gap as a percent of the ISMP maximum score was for this core characteristic, with a gap representing 61.1% room for improvement in standardizing IV solutions, drug concentrations, doses, and administration times whenever possible.

Your hospital’s lowest score as a percent of the group median score was reported for core characteristic 14, scoring 51.4% of the of the group median score, indicating 48.6% room for improvement in including patients as active partners in their care through education about their medications and ways to avert errors.