

Extracted from: the Maryland Patient Safety Center's *Keeping Patients Safe Newsletter*, September 2009

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New Research Shows Improved Medication Safety in Maryland Hospitals

The October edition of *Quality and Safety in Health Care* showcases the MEDSAFE Project and the fact that Maryland hospitals have been improving the safety of medication use practices since 2000. The authors, who include MPSC's Vahe A. Kazandjian, PhD, conducted a retrospective analysis of 35 Maryland hospitals from 2005 to 2007 to determine the changes in medication use practices, communication methods within hospitals, patient education, and changes in medical record management.

The analysis showed that overall, the statewide aggregate score significantly increased from 74.2 percent in 2005 to 81.2 percent in 2007. The findings come from survey responses to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Medication Safety Self-Assessment® for Hospitals.

Participating hospitals scored highest in the following areas in 2007:

- Drug standardization, storage, and distribution
- Drug labeling, packaging, and nomenclature
- Environmental factors

Hospitals scored lowest in areas related to:

- accessibility of patient information
- redundancies and independent double checks.

**For further information, visit
www.marylandpatientsafety.org.**

