

**Institute for Safe Medication Practices**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**ISMP Awarded Contract to Conduct  
Perioperative Medication Safety Self Assessment**

**Horsham, Pa.** — The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) has been awarded a contract from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to assess medication safety practices in the perioperative setting, from the time a patient is prepared for a procedure until he or she is discharged home. The ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment® for Perioperative Settings will help healthcare practitioners in hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs), and other surgical sites evaluate how they are protecting patients from possible perioperative medication errors.

Medication errors happen frequently in all phases of perioperative care, often due to the complexity of the procedures, the fast-paced nature of the setting, and multiple handoffs of care. ISMP's Medication Safety Self Assessment® for Perioperative Settings will provide facilities with a way to examine their medication safety practices, identify opportunities for improvement, and compare their experiences over time with the aggregate experience of demographically similar organizations.

The new self assessment also will help participants to document compliance with The Joint Commission's requirement for conducting a proactive risk assessment on a high-volume, high-risk, or problem-prone process, as well as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requirement for developing a data-driven quality assessment and performance improvement program.

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**ISMP Receives Grant to Conduct Perioperative Self Assessment**

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ISMP has conducted multiple medication safety self assessments for specific care settings and focus areas, including for hospitals, community/ambulatory pharmacies, high-alert medications, oncology, and antithrombotic therapy. Several national medication safety initiatives have been created based on data from ISMP's previous self assessments, and other countries have adopted some of the self assessment tools to gather information and develop goals for their own safety efforts.

The perioperative self assessment is slated to be launched in September 2020. As with past assessments, hospitals, ASCs, and other surgical sites will be invited to participate anonymously online via a secure, password protected website. All participants will have unlimited opportunity to access, view, and download their own scores throughout the period of data collection.

For more information, including how to become a participant and/or endorsing organization, send an email to [selfassess@ismp.org](mailto:selfassess@ismp.org) or call 215-947-7797.

**About the Institute for Safe Medication Practices**

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is the only 501c (3) nonprofit organization devoted entirely to preventing medication errors. ISMP is known and respected as the gold standard for medication safety information. For more than 25 years, it also has served as a vital force for progress. ISMP's advocacy work alone has resulted in numerous necessary changes in clinical practice, public policy, and drug labeling and packaging. Among its many initiatives, ISMP runs the only national voluntary practitioner medication error reporting program, publishes newsletters with real-time error information read and trusted throughout the global healthcare community, and offers a wide range of unique educational programs, tools, and guidelines. In 2020, ISMP formally affiliated with ECRI to create one of the largest healthcare quality and safety entities in the world. As an independent watchdog organization, ISMP receives no advertising revenue and depends entirely on charitable donations, educational grants, newsletter subscriptions, and volunteer efforts to pursue its life-saving work. Learn more at [www.ismp.org](http://www.ismp.org).

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