



The Patient Safety Commission strongly believes that all patients have a right to know about serious adverse events that affect their lives. As such, the Commission requires reporting organizations to provide written notification to patients*. The Board of Directors believes that this disclosure requirement supports and reinforces honest communication with patients.

In interpreting the notification statute, the Commission recognizes that guidelines should reflect the unique circumstances and responsibilities of healthcare organizations within their communities. Accordingly, the Commission specifies only two conditions on written notification: that it be timely and that it be consistent with the hospital's own policies.

The Board of Directors believes that this disclosure policy closely aligns with the Commission's founding principles of patient centeredness, accountability, collaboration, and a just culture. Such a requirement also reflects the values of transparency and truthfulness.

The Board of Directors further believes that written disclosure:

- is only one aspect of communication with patients/patient representatives regarding a serious adverse event;
- should never be the only means of communicating with patients about serious adverse events;
- provides an additional means to build trust and maintain connection;
- supports and reinforces personal communications with patients;
- should occur at a time and in a way that takes into account individual patient situations;
- should correspond with the overall communication and disclosure policies of a healthcare organization;
- is the right thing to do.

**Sections 4, chapter 686, Oregon Laws 2003: "After a serious adverse event occurs, a participant [in the Patient Safety Reporting Program] must provide written notification in a timely manner to each patient served by the participant who is affected by the event,"*