

Keeping Patients Safe
Improving Medication Safety in Maryland

Overview:

**Maryland Patient Safety Center's
Ninth Annual MEDSAFE Report on
Medication Safety**

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*A collaboration between the
Maryland Hospital Association and
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Keeping Patients Safe Improving Medication Safety in Maryland

Nearly a decade ago, Maryland hospitals began the MEDSAFE initiative to study medication errors in order to improve upon this dimension of patient safety. All Maryland acute care hospitals voluntarily participate in this program, which is now conducted by the Maryland Patient Safety Center (MPSC) in partnership with the Maryland Hospital Association and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP).

One of the foundational MEDSAFE initiatives offered to hospitals by MPSC is the ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment® survey. This groundbreaking, national survey has been conducted in Maryland for the past nine years to assess the status of the medication safety efforts underway, identify best practices, and share this information among hospitals. Results are reviewed in the aggregate for statewide trends, and all participating hospitals receive an individual, in-depth report that highlights progress for their potential areas for improvement.

In the aggregate, the 2009 results of the ISMP survey show that since the inception of MEDSAFE, Maryland hospitals have shown steady and significant improvement in medication safety. From 2005 to 2009, Maryland hospitals showed an increase of 9.2% in the overall median score for medication safety, most notably in:

- **Communication related to medications – 23%**
- **Staff competency and education – 16%**

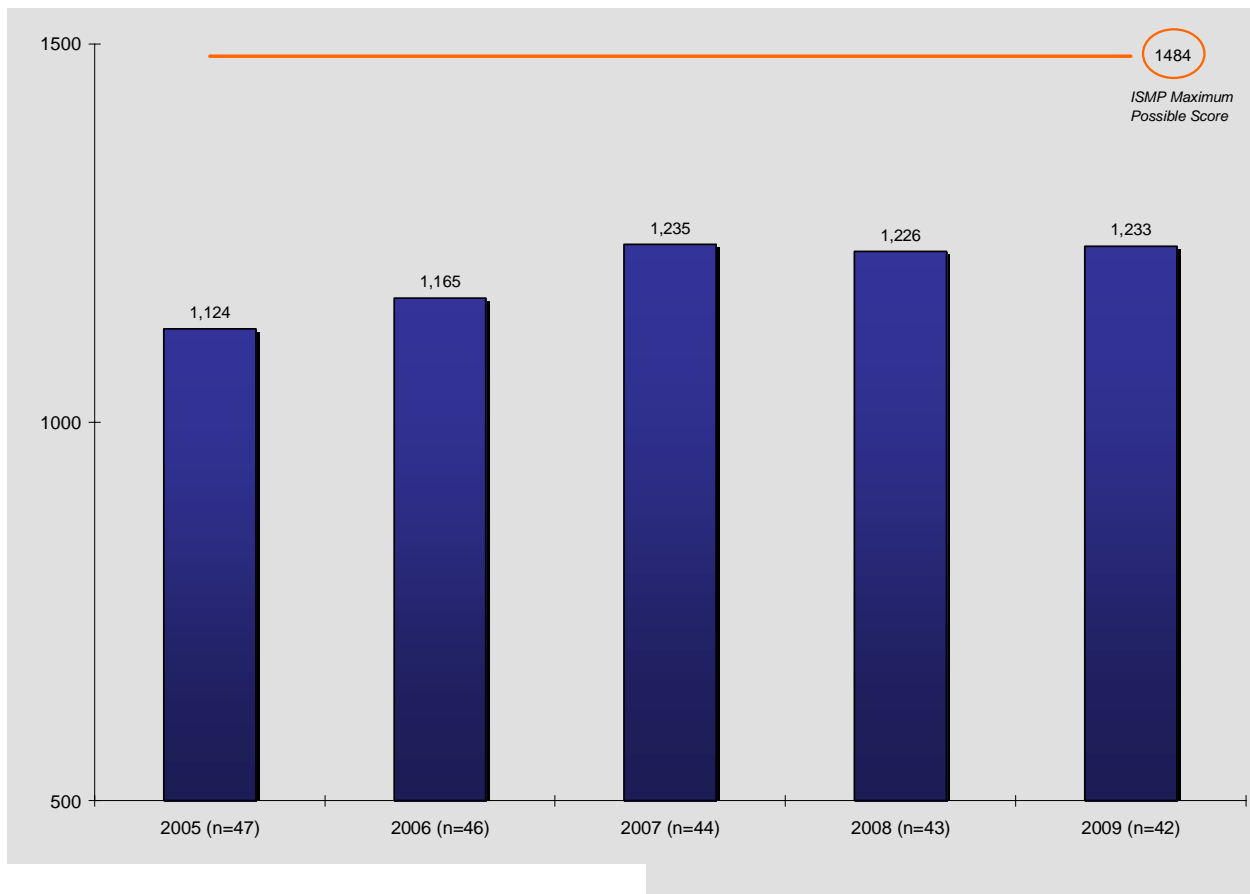
According to survey respondents, the greatest opportunities for improvement are in:

- **Patient information**
- **Drug labeling, packaging, and nomenclature**
- **Patient education**

Further details of Maryland hospital's progress in medication safety and areas for improvement are provided in the charts on the accompanying pages.

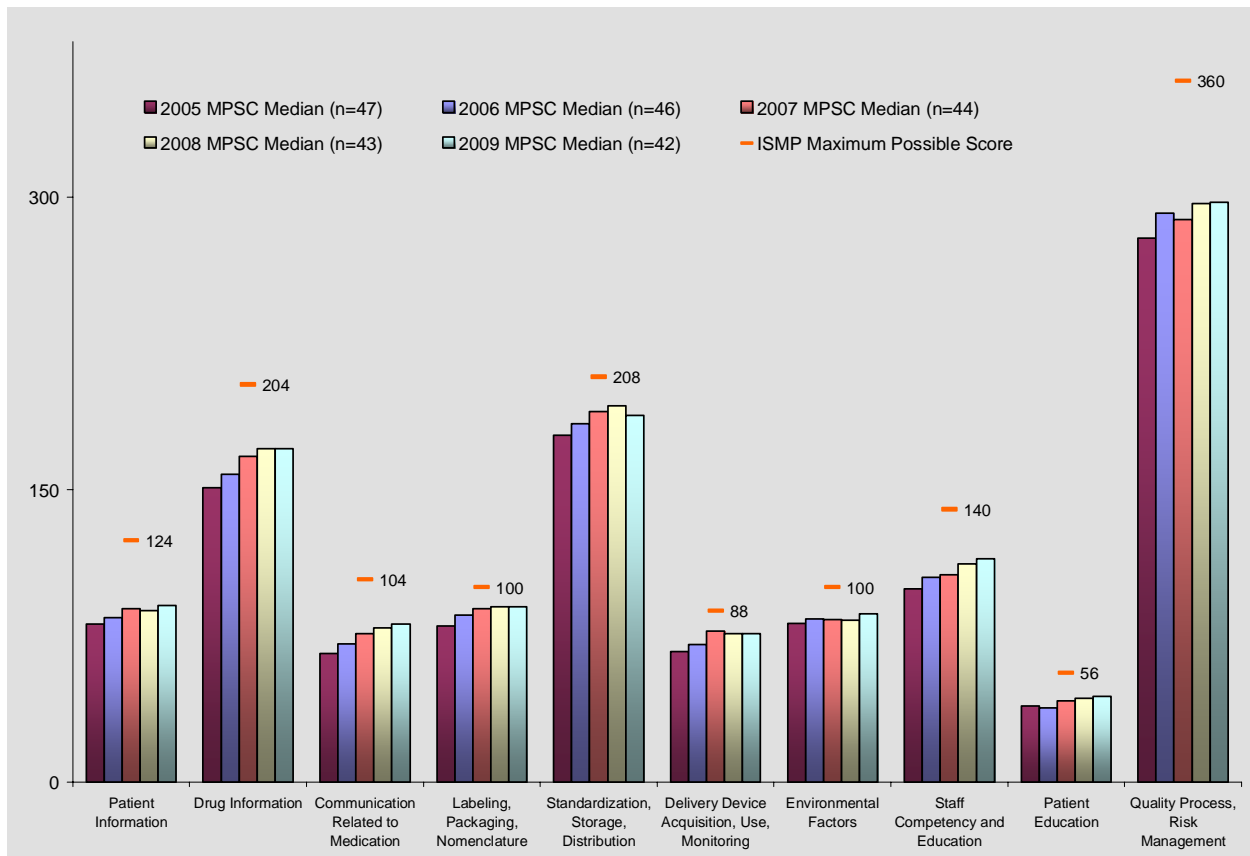
MPSC Median Scores by Year: 2005 - 2009

- The aggregate median score increased substantially from 2005 to 2007 and has remained steady through 2009.
- The aggregate median score in 2005 was 76% of the ISMP maximum possible score, and 83% in 2009 (an increase of 9.2% in the overall median score).



MPSC Median Scores by Year and Key Element Category: 2005 – 2009

- The key element categories with the smallest improvement are “*Environmental Factors*” and “*Drug Standardization, Storage, and Distribution*,” both increasing 6% from 2005 to 2009.
- The gap between the MPSC median and the ISMP maximum possible score represents the room for improvement. The key element category with the greatest opportunity for improvement is “*Patient Information*” in 2009.



For more information, please contact:

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