

# 10 TIPS TO MINIMIZE RISK OF HARM TO PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS

From *Fast Facts for Patient Safety in Nursing*  
by Deborah Dolan Hunt, PhD, RN

Minimize risk of harm through both system effectiveness and individual performance. Always be a patient safety advocate.

**1**

Protect patient privacy and confidentiality in all communications (verbal, written, electronic). Use clear and effective communication at all times.

**2**

Use proper PPE and adhere to infection control procedures and policies. Demonstrate proper hand hygiene technique.

**3**

Demonstrate competent use of medical devices in the care of a patient.

**4**

Use equipment per standards for safe patient assessment and monitoring.

**5**

Identify personal gaps in knowledge and skill and seek help. This career is about being a lifelong learner.

**6**

Use proper body mechanics and assistive devices to promote safe patient handling and avoid personal injury.

**7**

Use credible resources for researching medication information. Always use evidence-based practices.

**8**

Accurately record medication administration and monitor, report, and document the patient's response to the medication.

**9**

Describe the indication, action, and side effects of medications.

**10**

Provide appropriate patient education on medications and medication safety to the patient/family.