

**Institute for Safe Medication Practices
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www.ismp.org

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**ISMP Launches Gap Analysis Tool
to Evaluate Safe IV Push Practices**

Horsham, Pa.— The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) has created a new resource to help healthcare practitioners prevent patient harm when preparing, dispensing, and administering IV push medications in adults. The recently-released **ISMP Gap Analysis Tool (GAT) for Safe IV Push Medication Practices** will help hospitals and certain outpatient settings evaluate their best practices, identify and manage targeted risks, and track progress over time. The tool is based on recommendations found in the *ISMP Guidelines for Safe Practice of Adult IV Push Medications*.

Healthcare providers who submit their GAT findings to ISMP anonymously via a secure internet portal **by March 31, 2019**, will be able to obtain a gap analysis score, and will have access to aggregate data after the submission period and ISMP analysis so that they can compare themselves to demographically similar organizations. Participation may also help healthcare organizations analyze their compliance with their local policies and procedures for management of IV push medications, and determine how well they are meeting requirements from regulatory or accrediting agencies such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Facilities that can benefit from the GAT include hospitals, health systems, long-term care facilities, oncology/infusion clinics, ambulatory surgery centers, emergency/urgent care facilities, and endoscopy centers.

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ISMP recommends that each facility within a multifacility system complete the GAT individually, and establish multidisciplinary teams to work on the analysis. Facilities can complete the GAT in two ways:

- **Print and use a PDF copy** to record responses in advance, then have a team member submit them online all at once.
- **Complete the tool in phases using the online form** to record responses as the work progresses--information entered can be saved and returned to at a later time.

After the online form has been submitted to ISMP, participants will receive a score they can use to identify and prioritize opportunities for improvement as part of their medication safety action plan. At the end of the data submission period and analysis of the data, facilities that submitted their findings online to ISMP will be able to log back into their account and obtain aggregate results. Once the data submission period is over, participants also will be able to access the GAT at any time to re-evaluate their IV push practices and monitor their improvements.

For more information, or to access or print out a full copy of the GAT, visit:

<https://www.ismp.org/node/1188>.

About ISMP: The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is an independent, nonprofit charitable organization that works closely with healthcare practitioners and institutions, regulatory agencies, consumers, and professional organizations to provide education about medication errors and their prevention. ISMP represents more than 30 years of experience in helping healthcare practitioners keep patients safe, and continues to lead efforts to improve the medication use process. For more information on ISMP, or its medication safety alert newsletters and other tools for healthcare professionals and consumers, visit www.ismp.org.

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