Resolution VIII: Healthcare Quality Standards

USP will collaborate with stakeholders to develop, strengthen, revise, and promote adoption of healthcare quality standards that address quality and safety related to the use of medications.

In FY 2019 USP strengthened its collaboration with stakeholders to promote the adoption of healthcare quality standards. The Parenteral Nutrition Safety Expert Panel is developing standards related to enhancing safety and minimizing errors in the preparation of parenteral nutrition products. The Drug Allergy and Intolerance Classification Expert Panel is creating a classification scheme to reduce preventable medication errors associated with patients’ allergies and intolerance to medications.

In June 2019 USP received a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop version 8 of the USP Medicare Model Guidelines (MMG). These guidelines support the Medicare Part D formulary benefit and are also used in the benchmark tool for the state health insurance exchange markets for commercial health plans. USP will publish USP MMG 8.0 in FY 2020.

In February 2019 USP published the second version of the USP Drug Classification (USP DC), an annual, independent drug classification system designed to support stakeholders outside of the Medicare Part D program. More than 500 health professionals have downloaded the USP DC for formulary development and/or review.

We are also working with the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) in a broad effort to minimize medication errors that includes drafting an article alerting healthcare professionals of medication safety errors caused by two-component vaccines.

Finally, USP continues to solicit feedback from stakeholders in developing public quality standards in response to the misuse and abuse of opioids. USP is drafting standards for opioid prescription containers to help increase awareness and ensure safe use of medications.

Key Accomplishments

- Received grant from CMS to develop version 8 of the USP MMG
- Over 500 health professionals downloaded USP DC 2019 for formulary development and review
- Collaborated with the ISMP to reduce medication safety errors for two-component vaccines
- Ongoing work to develop standards for opioid prescription container labeling to increase awareness and ensure safe use of medications