## PROMISES Project STAFF & PROVIDER SURVEY

The PROMISES (*Proactive Reduction of Outpatient Malpractice: Improving Safety, Efficiency, and Satisfaction*) Project was an AHRQ-funded initiative to improve patient safety and reduce malpractice risk by redesigning systems and care processes to prevent, minimize, and mitigate medical errors and malpractice suits in small to medium-sized adult ambulatory practices.

Designed as a randomized controlled trial, the PROMISES project implemented a context-sensitive collaborative improvement model that emphasized training and in-office coaching by quality improvement, efficiency and safety experts, as well as shared learning methods to develop, test and implement changes. The project focused its efforts on four (3+1) safety areas identified as work streams with *underlying high-risk processes leading to malpractice suits:* 

- 1. Lab and test result tracking
- 2. Referral management
- 3. Medication management
- +1 Communications with patients & among practice staff

To evaluate the PROMISES Project, we developed four distinct evaluation tools, adapted from validated instruments, to measure relevant processes, communication, and patient trust:

- 1. Administrator Survey
- 2. Staff and Provider Survey
- 3. Patient Survey
- 4. Chart Review Tool

The PROMISES surveys capture structured information that encompasses the four PROMISES (3+1) safety areas, assess practices' process-based malpractice risk and identify areas for improvement. These evaluation tools are designed to be utilized repeatedly over time as a practice's processes are improved upon.

#### How should I use the PROMISES Staff & Provider Survey to evaluate my practice?

#### Staff and Provider Survey

The aim of this survey is to better understand the perceptions of practice staff (including physicians and other providers, clinical staff, nurses and administrative/clerical personnel) about the practice processes and structures they engage in/with daily. This survey includes questions about current processes for the three targeted risk areas; practice culture and communication; and potential areas for improvement. Overarching domains within this survey include:

- 1. Medication Management
- 2. Test Result Management
- 3. Referral Management
- 4. Malpractice Concerns
- 5. Patient-focused Care
- 6. Quality and Risk Management
- 7. Practice Communication
- 8. Work Environment
- 9. Teamwork
- 10. Practice Leadership
- 11. Access to Service and Care

Practice Communication and Culture





## For more information about the PROMISES project and additional resources, please visit: <a href="http://www.brighamandwomens.org/pbrn/promises">http://www.brighamandwomens.org/pbrn/promises</a>

## For direct inquiries, please contact:

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# STAFF & PROVIDER SURVEY



## PROMISES PROJECT PROVIDER AND STAFF SURVEY

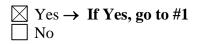
Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. This survey asks about your medical practice and factors related to office processes and patient care.

**Your Privacy is Protected.** All responses are private and confidential. Results will be analyzed only in the aggregate and individual responses will not be reported.

**Your Participation is Voluntary.** You may choose to answer this survey or not. If you choose not to, this will not affect your status as an employee.

## Survey Instructions

Answer each question by marking the box to the left of your answer. In a few places we will ask you to skip over some questions in this survey. When this happens you will see an arrow with a note that tells you what question to answer next, like this:



While completing this survey, please think about your medical office and describe the systems that are in place that affect the overall safety and quality of the care provided to your patients.

## Section I. Access to Service and Care

- 1. How often are urgent phone calls from patients and families returned within 2 hours?
  - $\Box_1$  Always
  - $\Box_2$  Most of the time
  - $\Box_3$  Sometimes
  - $\Box_4$  Rarely
  - $\Box_5$  Never
  - $\square_6$  Does Not Apply or Don't Know
- 2. How often are non-urgent phone calls returned within 24 hours?
  - $\Box_1$  Always
  - $\Box_2$  Most of the time
  - $\Box_3$  Sometimes
  - $\Box_4$  Rarely
  - $\Box_5$  Never
  - $\square_6$  Does Not Apply or Don't Know

3. If your office has an interactive patient portal website, based on feedback from patients, how would you rate it in terms of providing access to information that patients care about (such as test results or upcoming appointments)?

- $\Box_1$  Excellent
- $\Box_2$  Very good
- $\Box_3$  Good
- □<sub>4</sub> Fair
- □<sub>4</sub> Poor
- $\square_5$  Not applicable, this office does not have a patient portal

## Section II. Medication Management

- 4. How often are patient's medication lists updated or reconciled during their visits?
  - $\Box_1$  Always
  - $\square_2$  Most of the time
  - $\Box_3$  Sometimes
  - $\Box_4$  Rarely
  - $\Box_5$  Never
  - $\Box_6$  Does Not Apply or Don't Know

5. How often does your office follow up with patients who need monitoring related to medications they are taking?

- $\Box_1$  Always
- $\square_2$  Most of the time
- $\Box_3$  Sometimes
- $\Box_4$  Rarely
- $\Box_5$  Never
- $\square_6$  Does Not Apply or Don't Know
- 6. How would you rate your electronic prescription-writing tool?
  - $\Box_1$  Excellent
  - $\Box_2$  Very good
  - $\Box_3$  Good
  - □<sub>4</sub> Fair
  - $\Box_4$  Poor
  - $\Box_5$  Not applicable, this office does not have an electronic prescription-writing tool



## Section III. Referral Management

7. Over the past 6 months, how often has your office had problems exchanging accurate, complete, and timely information with other medical offices?

- $\Box_1$  Daily
- $\Box_2$  Weekly

 $\Box_3$  Several times in the past 6 months

- $\Box_4$  Once or twice in the past 6 months
- $\square_5$  Never in the past 6 months

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your office?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
a) For high priority referrals, our office has an effective system to reliably identify and follow up with a patient who did not see the referred providers					□,	
b) Our office reliably tracks whether we receive a consultation communication back from specialists			□_3	<b></b> 4	□_5	$\Box_5$
c) Our office reliably follows up when no consultation note is received back from referred providers			$\square_3$			

## Section IV. Test Result Management

9. How often did the following things happen in your medical office *over the past 6 months*?

	Daily	Weekly	Several times	Once or twice	Never
a) Critical abnormal result from a lab or imaging test was not followed up in a timely manner?		$\Box_2$	$\square_3$	$\Box_4$	
b) Your office had problems obtaining accurate, complete, and timely information from outside labs or imaging centers?			$\Box_3$	$\Box_4$	$\Box_5$

## 10. If your office has a formal system for the following, how would you rate its function?

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	No such system
a) Identifying high priority tests for reliable follow-up			$\square_3$	4		
b) Ensuring appropriate follow up of test results when the responsible clinician is not available (e.g., after hours, on vacation)						□,
c) Documenting electronic test results management system (i.e., to support provider in reviewing, tracking, and notifying patients of results)			□,			

- 11. For patients on Warfarin, how often is needed monitoring performed?
  - $\Box_1$  Always
  - $\square_2$  Most of the time
  - $\Box_3$  Sometimes
  - $\Box_4$  Rarely
  - $\Box_5$  Never
  - $\Box_6$  Does Not Apply or Don't Know

12. For patients on other high-risk medications (such as nephrotoxic, rheumatoid arthritis, or diuretic drugs), how often is needed monitoring performed?

- $\Box_1$  Always
- $\Box_2$  Most of the time
- $\Box_3$  Sometimes
- $\Box_4$  Rarely
- $\Box_5$  Never
- $\Box_6$  Does Not Apply or Don't Know

## Section V. Malpractice Concerns

13. Thinking about how your office performs each of the following, how concerned are you that it puts you at risk of committing an error that could lead to a malpractice suit?

	Extremely	Very	Moderately	Slightly	Not at all
Deals with critical or abnormal test results?			$\square_3$	$\square_4$	$\square_5$
Follows up on referrals?		$\square_2$	$\square_3$		$\square_5$
Monitors patients on medications?		$\square_2$	$\square_3$	$\square_4$	$\Box_5$
Manages medication refills?			$\square_3$		$\square_5$
Communicates with patients?			$\square_3$	$\Box_4$	$\square_5$

## Section VI. Patient-Focused Care

14. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your office:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
a) Patients are routinely encouraged to call with questions about their care after they leave our office						
b) When patients need an appointment for what they regard as an acute or serious problem, they can schedule a timely appointment with our providers	Π,					□₅
c) Providers and staff have the background, training, and systems required to address patient concerns			3	<b></b> 4		
d) Our office has systems in place to effectively address patient concerns				<b></b> 4		
e) Providers and staff are highly capable of addressing patient anger, anxiety, and difficult personalities			□3	<b></b> 4		
f) Providers generally ask their patients for their ideas			$\square_3$	$\square_4$		□ <sub>5</sub>

about managing their health				
g) Providers generally invite patients to express their concerns about problems in the care they have received		3	<b></b> 4	□₅
h) Providers involve patients in shared decision-making regarding treatment options by informing patients of the risks and benefits of the different choices and by discussing patient preferences				

## 15. If your office has a process for the following, how well does it function?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	No such system
a) Patient advisory groups			$\square_{3}$	$\square_4$	$\square_5$	
b) Surveying patients about their experience			$\square_3$	$\square_4$	$\square_5$	

## Section VII. Quality and Risk Management

16. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your office?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
a) It is just by chance that our office doesn't make more mistakes that affect our patients			3	4	5	
b) Our office processes are good at preventing mistakes that could harm patients			3	4		□₅
c) When there is a problem in our office, we see if we need to change the way we do things				<b></b> 4		
d) After this office makes changes to improve the patient care process, we check to see if the changes worked			□_3	□4		

## Section VIII. Practice Communication

17. How often do the following things happen in your office?

	Always	Most of the time	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Does not apply/ don't know
a) In this office, we discuss ways to prevent errors from happening again						
b) Providers and staff talk openly about patient safety problems					□_ <sub>5</sub>	
c) Staff are willing to report mistakes they observe in this office						
d) Staff feel like their mistakes are held against them						
e) It is difficult to voice disagreement in this office			□_3			
f) Providers in this office are open to staff ideas about how to improve office processes						
g) Staff are afraid to ask questions when something does not seem right				□4		
h) Staff are encouraged to express alternative viewpoints in this office			□_3			

## Section IX. Work Environment

18. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your office?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
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a) In this office, we often feel rushed when taking care of patients		$\square_3$			
b) We have enough staff to handle our patient load		$\square_3$		□_ <sub>5</sub>	
c) This office operates efficiently		$\square_3$	$\square_4$		
d) Staff in this office are asked to do tasks they haven't been trained to do			<b></b> 4		
e) This office is more disorganized than it should be					
f) Staff in this office follow standardized processes to get tasks done			<b></b> 4		
g) We have good procedures for checking that work in this office was done correctly				5	

19. Overall, how would you rate the systems and clinical processes your medical office has in place to prevent, catch, and correct problems that have the potential to affect patients?

 $\Box_1$  Poor

 $\Box_2$  Fair

 $\Box_3$  Good

 $\Box_4$  Very Good

 $\Box_5$  Excellent

## Section X: Teamwork

20. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your office?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
a) We treat each other with respect			$\square_3$	$\square_4$		
b) Providers and staff support one another.			$\square_3$			
c) Disagreements within the office are resolved appropriately.			$\square_3$	$\square_4$	$\Box_5$	$\Box_5$

d) Staff members work well together at all levels within the office.		$\square_3$		5
e) This office is a good place to work.		$\square_3$	$\square_4$	
<ul> <li>f) Staff members are generally satisfied with their jobs.</li> </ul>		$\square_3$	$\square_4$	

### Section XI: Practice Leadership

21. Are you an owner, a managing partner, or in a leadership position with responsibility for making financial decisions for your medical office?

- Yes  $\rightarrow$  Skip to question #23

 $\square_2$  No

22. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the owners/ managing partners/leadership of your medical office?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
a) They aren't investing enough resources to improve the quality of care in this office			□_3	<b></b> 4		
b) They overlook patient care mistakes that happen over and over						
c) They place a high priority on improving patient care processes				<b>_</b> 4		_₅
d) They make decisions too often based on what is best for the office rather than what is best for patients			□_3	□_4		

## Section XII: Background Questions

- 23. How long have you worked in this medical office location?
- □a. Less than 2 months
- □b. 2 months to less than 1 year
- □c.1 year to less than 3 years
- $\Box$ d. 3 years to less than 6 years
- □e. 6 years to less than 11 years
- □f. 11 years or more

24. Typically, how many hours per week do you work in this medical office location?

□a. 1 to 4 hours per week	□d. 25 to 32 hours per week
□b. 5 to 16 hours per week	□e. 33 to 40 hours per week
□c. 17 to 24 hours per week	□f. 41 hours per week or more

25. What is your position in this office? Check ONE category that best applies to your job.

□a. Physician (MD or DO)

□b. Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Midwife, Advanced Practice Nurse, etc.

□c. Management

Practice Manager	Business Manager
Office Manager	Nurse Manager
Office Administrator	Lab Manager
Other Manager	-

Dd. Administrative or clerical staff

Insurance Processor	Front Desk
Billing Staff	Receptionist
Referral Staff	Scheduler (appointments, surgery, etc.)
Medical Records	Other administrative or clerical staff position

□e. Nurse (RN), Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

□f. Other clinical staff or clinical support staff

Medical AssistantTechnician (all types)Nursing AideTherapist (all types)Other clinical staff or clinical support staff

□g. Other position; please specify:

## Section XIII: Comments

Please feel free to share your thoughts about any efforts to improve patient care and safety in your practice, and what areas still have room for improvement.

Thank you



## PROMISES Project SURVEY FAQ

#### How many staff and providers should my practice survey?

This is an important question, but one that does not have a simple answer. The PROMISES project was a federally funded research trial, where attention to research methodology and standards was necessary. Practices can elect to use the tool in a variety of ways, such as surveying a defined small sample of staff or a random sample of the entire staff population. For the PROMISES project, we typically aimed for a 60% response rate (% of staff that actually fill out the survey) per practice. Larger sample sizes generally lead to increased representativeness of the wider population.

#### How should my practice administer the surveys?

Surveys can be administered in a variety of ways based on your practice's infrastructure and capabilities. The PROMISES project employed both electronic and paper surveys for use by respondents, adapting to the desires and existing framework of each individual study practice. Your practice may decide to use either electronic-based surveys, paper-based surveys, or a combination of both. Surveys can be distributed in office or mailed by post and via e-mail. A survey drop box can be set up in the office to maintain anonymity.

#### How should my practice go about analyzing and interpreting the results of our surveys?

In order to analyze results, practices can use a simple excel spreadsheet to compile and tally survey responses. Similar to what some of the PROMISES practices have already done, we suggest your evaluation of survey results be incorporated into your practice's regular team meetings or "huddles". Your practice could devote a portion of your meetings discussing the results, making notes of distinct patterns in responses. Such activities can be helpful to identify areas for improvement and ways to initiate changes as a team.

#### I already survey my staff and providers using other tools. Why should I use the PROMISES tool?

The PROMISES survey tools are different from other instruments you may use. Questions included in these tools are based solely on the PROMISES "3+1" safety domains and have been developed by *real* clinicians that found these topics important. The tools are designed to be self-exploratory. Your practice will be able to retrieve and summarize results quickly because you hold the data. These tools are not designed to be used for activities such as pay-for-per performance reporting.

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