The purpose of this course is to provide licensed practitioners with information concerning the current state of medical errors, the impact of medical errors on the safety of patients, and the importance of establishing and working in a culture of safety. Contributing causes and types of medical errors are reviewed. Strategies to reduce or prevent medical errors and improve patient outcomes are presented. Methods to identify, analyze, and report medical errors are reviewed, populations at risk for medical errors are identified, and patient safety initiatives including education for the public and healthcare professionals are explored.

This course provides information to licensed nurses and other members of the interprofessional team that can be readily applied to their practice, no matter what the setting, with the ultimate goal of providing safer care to all patients. Healthcare providers will demonstrate knowledge of medical errors and populations at risk, the impact on patient care outcomes, and the resources and initiatives available to promote a culture of safety as an integral part of healthcare delivery. This course meets the state of Florida licensure renewal requirements for nursing continuing education in the identification and prevention of medical errors and the promotion of patient safety.

Course Objectives

- Discuss medical errors, the impact of errors on patient safety, the components of medical errors, and the significance of a safety culture.
- Recognize contributing causes of medical errors, common types of errors, and strategies to reduce errors and improve the outcomes of patients.
- Differentiate between methods for identifying, analyzing, and reporting medical errors.
- Identify high-risk populations with increased vulnerability for medical errors.
- Discuss patient safety initiatives and the benefits of patient safety education for the public and for healthcare professionals.