

## Rating recommendations for consumers about patient safety: sense, common sense, or nonsense?

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Weingart SN, Morway L, Brouillard D, et al. Rating recommendations for consumers about patient safety: sense, common sense, or nonsense? *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.* 2009;35(4):206-15.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/rating-recommendations-consumers-about-patient-safety-sense-common-sense-or-nonsense>

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Patients are increasingly being [encouraged](#) to be proactive in ensuring their own safety, and many [organizations](#) recommend specific actions that patients should take, such as maintaining a current list of medications or asking providers to wash their hands. However, [prior research](#) has shown that many patients are not comfortable assuming an active role in their own safety. This study reveals another problem with encouraging patient involvement—the lack of a standardized set of recommendations. The investigators reviewed recommendations from 26 organizations and found wide variation in the types and utility of suggested patient actions. Development of a unified set of recommendations for patients would likely help providers and patients work together to improve safety.