

Wednesday, 18 January 2011

2010-11 PATIENT SAFETY REPORT RELEASED

The South Australian Patient Safety Report 2010-2011 has been published.

All public hospitals across Australia are required to report on the number of serious incidents or 'sentinel events' in their state each year.

In 2010-11, 10 such events were reported in SA's public hospitals, compared to 14 the previous year.

Sentinel Events	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Wrong body part or patient resulting in death or major permanent loss of function	0	0	0
Maternal death	2	5	3
Intravascular gas embolism resulting in death or neurological damage	0	0	0
Haemolytic blood transfusion reaction	0	0	0
Infant discharged to wrong family	0	0	0
Suicide of in-patient	6	5	2
Retained instruments	7	3	3
Medication error leading to death	0	1	2
Total	15	14	10

Health Minister John Hill said, "Each year, more than two million services are provided in our public hospitals and staff do an outstanding job protecting the safety of their patients.

"However, diagnosing and treating very sick or injured people is complex and unfortunately there are occasions where something goes wrong.

"These incidents, as well as situations where there was even the potential for something to go wrong, are investigated and any necessary action is taken to try and prevent it happening again.

"We have also seen considerable progress in a number of other areas of patient safety.

"This includes a new electronic safety learning system, improved hand hygiene rates, new guidelines for staff handovers and initiatives to reduce the risk of patients being injured by falls."

The South Australian Patient Safety Report 2010-11 is available at: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au