

Charter: Safety Flag Committee

This is a peer review protected committee within Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement structure (QAPI) of Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and reports through the MGH Quality Oversight Committee (QOC). The Safety Flag Committee is responsible for reviewing safety events and complaints in which there is a concern that a patient poses a risk of physical harm to staff or others while receiving care. The intent is to maintain staff safety while providing appropriate care to the patient. With a focus on equity, the committee determines when an MGH patient should be identified as a safety risk within the electronic health record through the application of a Safety Flag and associated Safety Care Plan. Periodic reviews will be conducted to determine whether an existing flag, placed at MGH, should be continued or reviewed.

Responsibilities

1. Review all open safety risk flags and determine if they can be removed or should remain
2. Approve new safety risk flags
3. Identify opportunities for improvement
4. Refer action items to appropriate persons or groups to address opportunities

Committee Type

Standing (review of existing flags) and Ad-hoc (application of new flags)

Chairperson(s)

Senior Director for Patient Safety
Quality Chair -Psychiatry

Membership

Representatives from:

- Social Services
- Psychiatry
- Patient Advocacy
- Patient Care Services
- Police and Security
- Center for Quality and Safety
- Risk Management
- Emergency Services
- Ambulatory care

The committee may invite appropriate subject matter experts as needed.
Members of the committee will have access to place flags as required.

Meetings

Standing – Quarterly and as needed

Ad hoc – as needed

Decisions will be determined by the majority. A quorum of 5 members is required.

Minutes will be kept at the direction of the chair.