



## **Medication Error Reporting and Prevention Council Issues Report on 25 Years of Building Medication Safety**

**Rockville, Md., [DATE]** — The National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention (NCC MERP/The Council) has released the report, “25 Years of Building Medication Safety,” a chronicle of the Council’s impact on medication errors since the organization’s inception in 1995.

“NCC MERP’s mission is to maximize the safe use of medications and to increase awareness of medication errors through open communication, increased reporting and promotion of medication error prevention strategies,” according to Matthew Grissinger, NCC MERP Chairperson. “This report demonstrates how the Council has actively promoted the reporting, understanding and prevention of medication errors through the coordinated efforts of its member associations and agencies, and focuses on ways to enhance patient safety through a coordinated approach utilizing a systems-based perspective.”

The report highlights important milestones in NCC MERP’s twenty-five year history. Encompassed in the report are various recommendations from the Council on a range of issues such as medication error reduction in non-healthcare settings; promotion of the safe use of suffixes in prescription drug names, and reduction of medication errors associated with at-risk behaviors by healthcare professionals. Statements opposing both the criminalization of human errors in healthcare and the practice of using medication error rates to compare organizations are also included.

The Council was convened in 1995 by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) in an effort to bring together a group of concerned national organizations that had the authority, mechanisms, and resources to confront the complexities of medication errors and identify solutions for those issues that adversely affected patient safety.

From the original 15 members, the Council has since grown and currently encompasses 25 member organizations, a Federal liaison, one patient representative and two individual members.

For a copy of the report “25 Years of Building Medication Safety and a list of current member organizations please visit the NCC MERP website at [www.nccmerp.org](http://www.nccmerp.org) .