

For Immediate Release

MAPS Website Receives Access Approved Logo

The Wehrman Collaborative affirms MAPS work on Web Accessibility

Minneapolis MN (September 8, 2014)—The Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS) and the Wehrman Collaborative, LLC (WeCo), an accessibility testing organization, announced today that a MAPS patient education website has been granted a limited right of use of WeCo's Access Approved® logo. This recognition illustrates that MAPS meets WeCo's user-experience standards of accessibility for all people, regardless of their disability.

MAPS is made up of more than 100 organizations in the healthcare field working to improve patient safety. It has developed a public education campaign called "You: Your Own Best Medicine," which educates patients about simple steps they can take to stay healthy and safe. The website affirmed by WeCo, www.ownbestmedicine.mn, is one element of that public education campaign.

"It's very important that our Own Best Medicine patient safety campaign be accessible to all, no matter their disability," said Marie Dotseth, Executive Director of MAPS. "We're very proud of this work."

WeCo grants an access approved logo when a company or organization conforms their website to section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the [World Wide Web Consortium's \(W3C\) WCAG Guidelines](#), and WeCo's standards of accessibility. Certified test consultants from WeCo, who live with various disabilities, test each website and digital platform to ensure they match the criteria.

"Health is often a factor for many with disabilities, and WeCo was pleased to work with a great organization such as the Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety which strives for universal improvements to patient care," said Lynn Wehrman, president and founder of WeCo. "Their work in advocacy for the rights of patients and their many resources and tips are extremely valuable. WeCo's Certified Test Consultants, many of whom encounter lifelong health issues in addition to their disabilities, tested MAPS to ensure optimal accessibility for all."

To learn more about the Wehrman Collaborative, visit theweco.com, and to read more about the Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety, go to mnpatientsafety.org.

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About MAPS

The Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS) is a statewide patient safety coalition founded in 2000. MAPS members include more than 100 organizations, including health care associations, health care organizations, consumers, employers, health plans and state agencies and boards.

About WeCo

WeCo, based in Minneapolis, Minn., is a mission-based, for-profit organization founded in 2011 by a group of citizens and professionals who worked on government communication accessibility issues. WeCo's mission is to foster accessibility to online environments and to heighten public awareness regarding the capabilities of people who live with disabilities while promoting their financial independence. Focusing on the limited accessibility of web sites, and other electronic formats, for people living with disabilities, WeCo provides professional opportunities for individuals who are often overlooked by traditional work environments and encounter an unemployment rate that averages as high as 80%. WECO, ACCESS APPROVED, and the WECO logos, are trademarks of WECO. Other company and product names may be trademarks of their respective owners. For more information, visit <http://www.theweco.com>.