



TENNESSEE COLLABORATIVE ON REDUCING HEALTHCARE-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS “BECOMING A PATIENT SAFETY PARTNER”

Description:

Over the last eight years, healthcare leaders have become increasingly focused on quality and patient safety, with many organizations implementing interventions to improve patient safety. However, few know with certainty the impact of their efforts. Researchers from Johns Hopkins University developed a program to evaluate and improve patient safety at hospitals of all sizes and levels of complexity. Over a three-year period, the program has been tested in over 200 hospitals and has led to unparalleled improvements. Implementing the program has enabled organizations not only to ask, but to answer the following questions:

- **How often do we harm patients?**
- **How often do patients receive the care they should?**
- **How often do we learn from mistakes?**
- **How well do we improve culture?**

The Tennessee Center for Patient Safety will adapt this model as we implement a program that is aimed at reducing healthcare-acquired infections through a collaborative learning process. The collaborative will include local hospitals as a “**safety partners**” and leading organizations as technical experts, including the Department of Health, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control, QSource, and Tennessee Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. Hopkins safety leaders including Dr. Peter Pronovost and Ms. Chris Goeschel will join us at our workshops and provide intermittent coaching via conference calls as we proceed on our journey. Once this program has been fully adopted, healthcare professionals will be able to ask and answer that tough question: **Are we safer today?**

Benefits of Participation: Why Become a “Safety Partner”

This program will be evidence-based and appropriate for all acute care hospitals. The Safety Center will make available, interventions based on the most compelling research, and provide practical implementation tools for local improvement teams. These interventions will be useful regardless of hospital size, teaching status or case mix. The Safety Center will work with all patient safety partners to achieve enhanced patient outcomes.

Specifically, participants will work together in the spirit of shared learning to:

- **Improve the culture of safety**
- **Reduce patient harm, by significantly reducing or eliminating central line bloodstream infections**
- **Reduce Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus transmission**
- **Meet or exceed the national goal of a 25 percent reduction in surgical complications by implementing the Surgical Care Improvement Project measures**

Performance Expectations: What is Required of Partnering Hospitals and Teams?

- Each facility must assemble a team committed to accomplishing the objectives in at least one of the initiatives. (CLABSI, MRSA, SCIP) (Facilities can choose more than one or add other initiatives at a later date.)
- Hospital chief executive officers must sign a written commitment and designate team members prior to beginning the project.
- Each team should include a senior executive, nurse manager, physician champion, infection control, quality and front-line nursing staff.
- Each team is required to commit to collecting and submitting data.
- Each team is required to commit to active and open sharing and participating in regional collaborative meetings, conference calls and other networking opportunities.
- Each facility commits to the inclusion of front-line staff on the team.

How Teams Will Reduce Harm and Make Certain Patients Receive the Evidence-Based Interventions:

To help teams reduce harm and increase the extent to which patients receive the interventions that they should, the model in this program combines evidence-based medicine with quality improvement and is appropriate for all improvement efforts. The steps include:

- Choose a focus area and assess outcomes of care using baseline audit tools. (CLABSI, MRSA, SCIP)
- Select from evidence-based interventions (processes) that improve the outcomes.
- Evaluate if patients are receiving those interventions using established tools.
- Implement new tools and strategies to ensure patients receive the evidence-based interventions. The Tennessee Center for Patient Safety will provide toolkits.
- Evaluate improvement efforts.

Why This Is Important

Each day, far too many patients are harmed needlessly through their interactions with the healthcare system. Health systems must demonstrate they are safer today than yesterday. Tennessee hospitals are already implementing improvements, though measurement of progress is limited. Now is the time to demonstrate that hospitals are committed to accelerating efforts to implement, rigorously measure and continuously improve performance.

Tennessee Center for Patient Safety Support:

- Provide education/training/tools for hospital leadership and staff on improving safety culture, team building, and performance improvement strategies to reduce infections.
- Convene and facilitate sharing opportunities regarding processes, lessons learned, best practices, tools, etc., among group participants.
- Provide aggregate comparative reports and hospital-specific reports to participants.

CEO/Administrator Commitment

See the enclosed formal commitment document. Complete the document, sign it and return to:

Tennessee Hospital Association

Tennessee Center for Patient Safety Attention: Darlene Swart

500 Interstate Blvd., South Nashville, TN 37210 Fax Number 615-242-4803



**Commitment Form for Participation
In the Tennessee Collaborative on
Reducing Healthcare-Acquired Infections (HAI)**

On behalf of (print hospital name) _____,
We would like to be included as a participant and "Safety Partner" in the reducing HAI collaborative.

We will be participating in the following initiative(s) (more than one can be checked)

- _____ Reduce patient harm by significantly reducing or eliminating central line bloodstream infections
- _____ Reduce Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus transmission
- _____ Reduce surgical complications by implementing the Surgical Care Improvement Project Measures

Our hospital contact for this collaborative will be:

Name/Position _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Signed,

CEO/Signature

Date

In order to be included in THA's public announcement of participating hospitals.

Please complete and return this form by February 15, 2008.

**Mail or Fax this completed form by February 15 to:
Tennessee Center for Patient Safety
Attention: Darlene Swart
500 Interstate Blvd., South
Nashville, TN 37210
Fax Number: 615-242-4803**