



American Hospital
Association

Patient Safety Efforts

AHA Initiatives

- **Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence** – provides field-tested practices, tools, education and other networking resources to accelerate performance improvement in the nation's hospitals.
- **The Quality Center** – resource to help hospitals accelerate their quality and performance improvement processes; features tools, articles and other resources to support hospitals to achieve better patient outcomes, enhanced safety, increased satisfaction and improved operational and financial performance.
- **Quest for Quality Award** – prize honoring hospitals that have committed in a systematic manner to achieving the Institute of Medicine's six quality aims – safety, patient-centeredness, effectiveness, efficiency, timeliness and equity.

Collaborations

- **Hospital Quality Alliance** – organizations representing America's hospitals joined with consumer representatives, physician and nursing organizations, employers and payers, oversight organizations and government agencies to launch the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA) in December 2002. A national public-private collaboration that is committed to making meaningful, relevant, and easily understood information about hospital performance accessible to the public and to informing and encouraging efforts to improve quality.
- **Comprehensive Unit-Based Safety Program** – a nationwide patient safety program proven to dramatically reduce central-line associated blood stream infections.
- **Surgical Care Improvement Project** – a national quality partnership of organizations focused on improving surgical care by significantly reducing surgical complications.
- **Five Steps to Safer Health Care** – fact sheet that helps patients understand how to get safer health care that was developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with the American Hospital Association and the American Medical Association.
- **World Health Organization Surgical Checklist** – a checklist of steps to be taken before and after surgery to minimize the most common and avoidable events associated with surgical care; a checklist coordinator must confirm that the surgery team has completed the listed tasks before it proceeds with the operation.



American Hospital
Association

Patient Safety Efforts

Hospital Board Outreach

- **Quality Curriculum for Trustees** – developed by the Center for Healthcare Governance to increase hospital board member knowledge of the quality imperative; provides tools board members need to effectively drive their hospitals' quality and safety initiatives and is designed to be customized based on individual organizational strategy, mission and vision.
- **Hospital Board Education** – AHA distills critical information from studies and patient safety data to help hospital boards as they set their organizations' strategic goals and initiatives when prioritizing what investments the hospital will undertake to improve safety and quality.

Tools

- **Infection Control Compendium** – comprehensive practical, science-based strategies to help prevent the six most important health care-associated infections.
- **The Patient Care Partnership: Understanding Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities** – plain language brochure that informs patients about what they should expect during their hospital stay with regard to their responsibilities and rights.
- **Strategies for Leadership: Improving Communications with Patients and Families. A Blueprint for Action** – organizational assessment tool to help evaluate how hospitals are doing at communicating with patients and families; includes several real-world examples of "best practices" from the field.
- **AHA-ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment** – allowed U.S. hospitals to gauge their use of nearly 200 characteristics and practices that most significantly influence safe medication use and identify challenges and opportunities for change over time.

Initiatives Supported

- **5 Million Lives Campaign** – national initiative that aims to protect patients from five million incidents of medical harm in US hospitals between December 2006 and December 2008.
- **Communicating Outcomes to Patients** – developed by the Minnesota Hospital Association, this booklet discusses principles and common terminology that hospitals can use to craft their own in-depth policies on communicating outcomes to patients and families.
- **Wrist Band Standardization** – standardized color-coded wrist bands used in some hospitals so that caregivers who work in more than one hospital readily understand important information.
- **The Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare** – develops specific tools and strategies for improving patient safety; AHA is partnering with them to put those effective strategies in the hands of hospital leaders.