



**American Hospital
Association®**

HELP Subcommittee Hearing Statement On Preventable Medical Errors

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Patient safety is, and always has been, the top priority for America's hospitals. We work to provide the best care possible for every patient, every time. Despite that we realize there is more work to be done to eliminate preventable harm. To imply that hospitals have made no progress in improving the safety of the care they provide patients ignores what the data show. Hospitals have focused like a laser beam on quality and safety improvement efforts. And we have seen real results.

According to HHS, hospitals across the country prevented 560,000 hospital-acquired conditions and saved 15,000 lives and \$4.1 billion. The American Hospital Association's Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) Hospital Engagement Network (HEN) alone has, to date, avoided potential harm to more than 143,000 patients and has saved more than \$1.3 billion in preventable health care costs over the past two and a half years. Hospitals also initiated efforts to publicly report quality and safety data. *Hospital Compare* was established so that patients and their families can compare quality information on their local hospitals and has spurred improvement across the field. Many hospitals work with Patient Safety Organizations, which help to share practices on how to reduce the occurrence of adverse patient events.

By learning from each other, hospitals will continue to build on the successful improvements that have led to positive results because for hospitals what matters most are healthy outcomes for the patients they serve.

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