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### **Patient Safety Commission Receives Federal Reporting Status**

[Portland, Oregon] [November 19, 2008] Today the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) notified the Patient Safety Commission that it has been certified as a Patient Safety Organization (PSO) by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The effective date is November 26, 2008.

PSOs are authorized under federal law to “provide for the improvement of patient safety.” PSOs will build voluntary adverse event reporting programs and offer expert consultation to clients. Oregon is in a unique position because the federal law so closely matches the charter of the Patient Safety Commission and because we already have two years experience in running a reporting program.

The most immediate impact of PSOs will be to extend federal confidentiality protections to adverse event data reported to the Commission. We already have very strong state protections in place, but this will strengthen them further. We hope this will encourage pharmacies with retail outlets in Oregon but with corporate offices in other states to join our reporting program.

In 2009 the Commission will seek legislative approval to become Oregon’s central agency responsible for collection, analysis, and reporting of data collected by any other PSO in the state.

*The Patient Safety Commission is a semi-independent state agency with the mission of reducing the risk of adverse events and encouraging a culture of patient safety. The Commission is governed by a 17 member board of directors representing a diverse group of health care stakeholders including consumers, hospitals, nurses, physicians, insurers, and many others.*