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Patient Safety Commission offers first-ever look at overall hospital safety in Oregon

Much improvement needed

[Portland, Oregon] [November 12, 2008] Today the Oregon Patient Safety Commission released a first-ever look at overall patient safety in Oregon. This effort is in support of the Commission's North Star goal, a challenge goal that *Oregon can develop the safest healthcare delivery system in the nation by 2010*.

"This is important work," said Joyce DeMonnin, chair of the Patient Safety Commission (and Public Outreach Director for AARP Oregon). "Collectively, we need a stronger sense of urgency to eliminate harm to patients. We need to identify areas for improvement and to measure our progress. North Star helps."

The Commission's report on hospital safety addresses six critical areas. For each area the Commission established a baseline (*Where we are now*) and a target (*Where we need to be by the end of 2010*). The six areas:

1. Can we demonstrate that we are eliminating preventable harm events?
 - Outcome Measure: Number of 'retained objects' accidentally left after surgery or procedure.
 - Baseline: 50 such events occurred in Oregon hospitals in 2007.
 - 2010 target: 0.
2. Are we using evidence-based best practices?
 - Safe Practices Measure: Percentage of hospitals that have implemented three specific best practices to eliminate surgical site infections.
 - Baseline: 75% of Oregon patients currently receive optimal care. For each of the individual measures, between 22 and 42 states currently have better compliance rates than Oregon, depending on which measure is considered.
 - 2010 target: Best in nation.
3. Are we assessing risk and learning from experience?
 - Risk Assessment Measures: a) Number of hospitals that actively share data with the Patient Safety Commission; b) Number of adverse events reported to the Commission.

- Baseline: a) 39 of 55 participating hospitals have shared adverse event data; b) In 2008 we expect to receive about 110 reports.
 - 2010 target: a) 100% of Oregon hospitals will have reported at least one event in last 2 years; b) The volume of reports will increase to 150 - 200.
4. Do we have a culture that supports learning and improvement?
- Culture of Safety Measure: Number of hospitals that routinely monitor their safety culture by using a facility-wide survey.
 - Baseline: Currently 80% of Oregon hospitals report using such a survey.
 - 2010 target: 100% of hospitals will actively use a culture survey.
5. Are patients and consumers playing an active role?
- Patient Empowerment Measure: Number of Oregon hospitals that actively encourage their patients to report patient safety concerns.
 - Baseline: 87% of Oregon hospitals report that they have mechanisms in place.
 - 2010 target: 100% of hospitals.
6. Are we working to create connected systems of care?
- Connectivity Measure: Hospital progress toward implementing electronic medical records (EMR)
 - Baseline: National data from an “EMR Adoption Index.” Oregon’s hospital average score is 2.25 (based on a 0 to 7 scale with 7 representing complete EMR adoption). This ranks Oregon 17th in the nation.
 - 2010 target: Oregon is best in nation as measured by percentage of hospitals that have reached stage 5 or greater by 2010.

Overall, Oregon hospitals are doing a good job in addressing patient safety issues. The list of improvement projects they’ve initiated is impressive. But the data suggest that our journey is not over. We need to redouble our efforts.

In the coming months the Patient Safety Commission will publish separate benchmark reports for nursing homes and for ambulatory surgery centers. We will also continue to partner with hospitals to support their quality efforts.

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. For a copy of the complete report please visit our website: www.oregon.gov/OPSC.