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## Our North Star Goal:

*Oregon will have the safest health care system in the country by 2010.*

## Contact Us

### [Patient Safety website](#)

Ambulatory Surgery Center

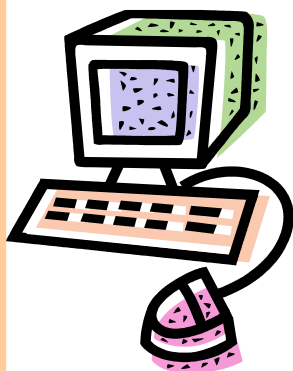
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## Oregon Patient Safety Commission News

This is the second edition of the Patient Safety Commission's e-newsletter. Our objective is to provide you, our participants, with regular updates regarding the Commission's work. We want this newsletter to be useful, so please give us feedback. What do you want to know more about? Contact [Amy Gryzic](#) with your comments and suggestions. [Return to Top](#)

## Web-based Reporting Form Update



The Commission's web-based reporting form was slated to be ready for use in June. However, the vendor has run into a problem in completing the 'back end' (database) portion of the project.

Although the process is not yet complete, the web-based reporting form is finalized and we encourage participants to begin using this version to report adverse events to the Commission. Until the database issues are resolved, participants can complete the form, save it, print a copy and send it via fax (503 224 9150) to Amy.

We will no longer use the secure/certified email process to transmit reports.

To use the new form, be sure you have Adobe Reader 8.0 or above (if not, download [here](#)), then open the [form](#). To begin, choose "Ambulatory Surgery Center" under Reporting Organization. From there, you simply tab through the form to complete each box. A thorough and complete event description is critical, as is completing the findings and action plans. This is the rich information we hope to confidentially share with all ASC participants.

Formal training will occur once the database is ready. In the meantime, we strongly encourage ASC participants to use the new form to report adverse events to the Commission. The success of the Commission's voluntary reporting program is largely dependent on your participation. Thank you.

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## Interview with a Commissioner: Dr. Bruce Johnson, ASC Representative

*"I'm an enthusiastic supporter of the Patient Safety Commission as I believe it provides a forum where ideas & methods that promote improved patient safety can be gleaned & shared between all these facilities that perform surgery..."*

-- Dr. Bruce Johnson

The Oregon Patient Safety Commission is led by a 17-member board of directors. Each board member (Commissioner) represents a different stakeholder group within the health care system. From consumers to insurers, the board is diverse. Every Commissioner brings his/her perspective to further the Commission's mission of reducing harm in Oregon's health care system and improving the culture of patient/resident safety. A list of Commissioners can be found on our [website](#).



The website also regularly features an "Interview with a Commissioner" where Commissioners share their unique view of safety. August's [interview](#) was with Dr. Bruce Johnson who represents Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs). Dr. Johnson is an otolaryngologist. He has been in private practice in Salem since 1991. His practice, Willamette Ear, Nose, Throat & Facial Plastic Surgery, includes an ASC where the majority of the outpatient surgery is performed. He is past president of the Mid-Valley Independent Physician Association (IPA) and currently serves on their Employee Benefit Trust which provides health insurance to physicians, their office personnel and families in Marion and Polk counties. Dr. Johnson has a strong interest in improving patient safety both in his own practice and in the physician community at large. He has been a Commissioner, representing ASCs, since 2004. Previously posted interviews with other Commissioners can be found on our website [here](#).

By the way, Commission meetings are open to the public; we invite you to attend. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 23 at the Clackamas Community College Wilsonville Training Center (29353 SW Town Center Loop East, Wilsonville, 97070) from 12:30 – 3:30 pm. [Return to Top](#)

## Participation Update

Of the 80 licensed ASCs in Oregon, 41 participate in the Commission's adverse event reporting program (51%). We are still actively recruiting, and our goal is to have 70% of Oregon's ASCs participating by the end of 2008. We encourage you to help us out by sharing this newsletter and telling your colleagues at other ASCs why you are participating. We are creating a learning tool – the more participants, the richer the information we'll gather.

The Commission continues to work closely with the Oregon Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (OASCA). OASCA's Annual Conference will be October 3-4 at the Riverhouse Hotel and Conference Center in Bend. On Saturday, October 4 (11 am – noon), Amy will present the Commission's new web-based reporting form using an adverse event from an ASC. We hope to see you there. [Return to Top](#)

## Employee Satisfaction and Culture of Safety Survey

*"An organization's ability to learn, and translate that learning into action rapidly, is the ultimate competitive advantage." Jack Welch, General Electric*

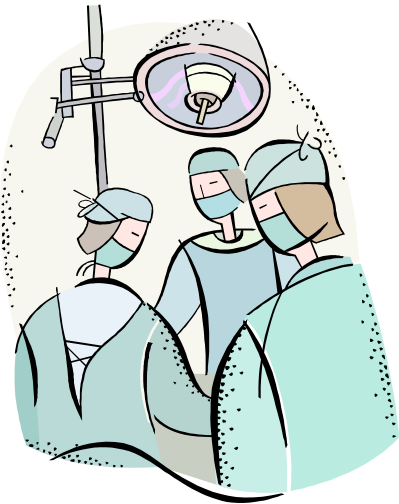
Together, the Commission and OASCA developed a new employee satisfaction survey. This survey is unique in that it includes a section on patient safety/culture of safety. We used a well-tested survey from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's ([AHRO](#)) as the basis for our version. The new survey is free and available to Oregon's ASCs [here](#) (note: Word document containing macros).

The safety culture survey can help ASCs better understand the conditions that may lead to adverse events and patient harm. For instance, one survey statement is, "Staff feel that mistakes are not held against them." If 25% of the staff respond "strongly disagree," you might conclude that staff fear retaliation if they report an adverse event. From there you might also conclude that you do not have an accurate picture of the number and type of adverse events occurring in your organization. This data could then prompt a quality improvement project to improve the staff's perception of reporting and give you a more accurate picture of adverse events occurring in your ASC. Conducting safety surveys also helps raise awareness about patient safety, evaluate specific interventions or programs specific to safety, conduct internal and external benchmarking and track progress overtime. Safety survey information from AHRQ can be found [here](#).

Special thanks to Gastroenterology Specialists of Oregon for their assistance in developing this survey. We hope you find it useful and that you share feedback with [Amy](#). [Return to Top](#)

## Safe Surgery Checklist

*"Safe surgery saves lives."  
World Alliance for Patient Safety, World Health Organization*



The World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) reports that 234 million major operations are performed annually across the world. Of these, they postulate that seven million result in patients suffering surgical complications following surgery, half of which are preventable.

To address surgical safety, WHO launched its [Safe Surgery Checklist](#). Currently being piloted in eight countries, including the United States, the checklist identifies key safety steps to execute during perioperative care. According to WHO, these steps should be accomplished during every single operation no matter the setting or type of surgery. The checklist identifies three phases of an operation and coordinates the operating room team to discuss key safety checks before the induction of anesthesia (sign in), before the incision of the skin (time out) and before the patient leaves the O.R. (sign out). WHO hopes to show improvement in process and outcomes of care during its pilot.

If you have implemented the WHO Safe Surgery Checklist, please email [Amy](#).

For more information about the Safe Surgery Checklist, including a link to download the checklist and implementation manual, visit their [website](#). [Return to Top](#)

*This newsletter is being sent to you because you are a participant in the Oregon Patient Safety Commission's adverse event reporting program for ambulatory surgery centers. Your E-mail address will not be shared or used for any purpose unrelated to the program. If you wish to unsubscribe, please send an E-mail to [linda.goertz@oregonpatientsafety.org](mailto:linda.goertz@oregonpatientsafety.org) with subject "ASC Unsubscribe."*

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