

**Oregon Patient Safety Commission  
Revised Principles - Final  
May 12, 2004**

**Vision:** Health care for all Oregonians will be safe.

**Mission:** Improve patient safety by reducing the risk of serious adverse events occurring in Oregon's health care system and by encouraging a culture of patient safety in Oregon.

**To accomplish its mission, the commission shall:**

- a. Establish a confidential, voluntary serious adverse event reporting system to identify serious adverse events;
- b. Establish quality improvement techniques to reduce systems' errors contributing to serious adverse events; and
- c. Disseminate evidence-based prevention practices to improve patient outcomes.

**Start-up Principles**

- 1) The Commission has a sense of urgency about reducing harm to patients and improving quality of care in Oregon. The status quo is not acceptable.
- 2) The Commission represents an independent voice for patient safety. It will create a safe, non-punitive, and confidential haven for the collection and use of patient safety information where all representatives and users of the health care system can come together to work on shared goals.
- 3) The Commission aims to change the climate of patient safety in Oregon. Such change will require a long-term, sustained effort.
- 4) The Commission believes the patient and the patient's experience represent "true north" in healthcare. It believes that consumers should have an important role in reducing errors. As such, the Commission will engage consumers fully in patient safety efforts.
- 5) The Commission believes in the ideas of a 'just culture.' As such it will attempt to balance individual accountability with the need for non-punitive approaches and system improvements. A primary focus of the Commission will to reduce errors by addressing systems-related issues. To the extent that individual negligence or misconduct occurs, such activity will be handled independently by existing regulatory agencies.
- 6) The Commission will maintain a high level of accountability—to the public, to the Legislature, to participating reporting entities, to the health care community.
- 7) The Commission will work in close collaboration with consumers, policy makers and leaders of the health care delivery system in Oregon in order to gain their active support for the goals of the Commission and to identify, share, and implement best practices.

8) The Commission acknowledges its current status as a small, semi-voluntary, and newly created organization. It needs to build credibility and forge an independent, lasting identity. Therefore it resolves to:

Find its appropriate and unique niche among all the other organizations involved in patient safety efforts.

Keep a narrow initial focus in its patient safety efforts.

Create, nurture and sustain powerful public-private partnerships and coalitions.

Have a clear, compelling and sensible vision that it communicates to all Oregonians: simply, consistently, repeatedly, effectively.

Balance long term goals with short term visible results (wins).

9) The Commission will strive to minimize the burden on reporting entities and to complement data systems that already exist.

10) The Commission recognizes that securing startup and over-time funding is of critical importance to its work. To the extent possible such costs will be defrayed over a large base of funders. The Commission expects both public (at a minimum via in-kind contributions) and private financial participation (donations, in-kind, participant fees).

11) The creation of a patient safety reporting program represents the key initial aspect of the Commission's work. However, it does not represent the only aspect. Over time, the Commission will explore other patient safety projects, including the dissemination of best practices and the support of quality improvement initiatives.