

Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety –Present and Future

We wanted to provide Indianapolis residents with an update on the on-going efforts of the Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety. This collaborative organization was formed in 2003 with the vision to make Indianapolis the safest city for Health Care in America. All of the not for profit hospitals in Indianapolis and surrounding communities have agreed NOT to compete on safety and to work together in order to accelerate improvement in patient safety. The hospitals themselves, fund this Coalition with grant assistance from the Lilly Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

During 2011 the Coalition accomplished the following:

- Launched a health card campaign within the Indianapolis hospitals, Wellpoint, and Eli Lilly Company to increase the number of employees maintaining their personal medication list. Plans are to spread this health card to an additional ten employers in central Indiana.
- Medication Safety Group developed guidelines to reduce the incidence of patient experiencing hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and implemented a standard U500 Insulin protocol template. The Medication Safety Group is working collaboratively with Purdue University and developed a database of information to improve safe use of IV automated infusion pumps.
- In the Infection Prevention area, all member hospitals have reduced their urinary tract and blood stream infections which have caused a reduction in Septicemia rates in all member hospitals since 2008.
- Surgical Safety Group has partnered with the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation to develop, implement and publish joint guidelines to decrease opioid induced respiratory depression. They have also developed and implemented recommendations to decrease intraoperative retention of foreign objects (Sponges, Needles, Guide Wires).
- Collaboration for a Consistent Standard of Care among Indianapolis Hospitals: standardization occurred across all hospitals to improve safety for use of high risk IV medication concentrations, 2 patient identifiers prior to treatment, and developed a H1N1 Flu Season Patient/Family Visitation policy.

During 2012, the Coalition will focus on the following:

- Medication Safety Group: Will focus on appropriate use of high risk medications to better define timeliness of scheduled medication administration to hospital inpatients and to prevent adverse outcomes with narcotic dosing.
- Surgical Safety Group: Will focus on preventing surgical site infections by reinforcing hand washing in the Operating Room.
- Reduction in Hospital Patient readmission rates: Work continues to reduce Heart Failure, and Pneumonia patient readmissions with a focus on improving written and verbal hand-off communications between hospitals and long term care facilities/Skilled nursing facilities.
- Blood Safety Group: Will reduce medical error associated with mis-management of blood transfusions to prevent receipt of incorrect blood, provide consistent patient education, informed consent and standardize process for blood administration.

- Influenza Prevention Group: This Coalition Group is working with the member hospitals to require annual flu vaccination for health care workers to reduce patient and staff influenza.
- Hypothermia Work Group: The Coalition has a newly formed Hypothermia Work Group to establish a standardized protocol to improve patient survival from cardiac arrest to hospital discharge.
- Consistent Standard of Care among hospitals: standardizing the approach to disclosure of medical events to patients and families.

As you can see much has been accomplished but there is still much work to be done to make Indianapolis the safest city for Health Care in America.