



Texas Hospital Association Foundation

# Texas Hospital Association Patient Safety Organization

## What is a Patient Safety Organization?

**A Patient Safety Organization, (PSO), is an entity through which health care organizations can confidentially collaborate to improve quality and patient safety.**

### **PSO activities include:**

- Creation of a secure environment for the collection and aggregation of patient safety information;
- Provision of comparative data to other PSO hospitals to support patient safety improvements; and
- Facilitating dialogue to occur across PSO health care organizations on patient events of significant risk, resulting in the identification of trends and best practices for the improvement of care.

## What are some of the changes to the PSO?

**First launched in 2012, the THA PSO brought more than 85 hospitals together to share best practices, compare de-identified data and learn from other hospitals. Here are a few of the highlights:**

- Data processes are streamlined through a new data submission portal;
- Turnaround for de-identified data allows hospitals to quickly benchmark your hospital's performance to other similar hospitals;
- Collaborative safe table meetings in a non-disclosable environment to openly discuss significant adverse events, quality and safety errors and the protocol established in response to avoid future events;
- Preventable adverse events, near misses, and unsafe conditions are reduced in all health care settings; and
- An environment for health care providers to voluntarily report, discuss, and learn from patient safety events and quality analyses on a privileged and confidential basis is provided.

## How does participation in a PSO benefit my hospital and patients?

**PSOs offer numerous benefits to your hospital and patients such as:**

- Provision of aggregated data within a comparative database on events of significant risk for your health care organization;
- Comprehensive analysis of recurring patient safety events and identification of opportunities for improvement;
- Creation of a protected environment for the collaboration of health care organizations to improve care at the hospital level;
- Commitment of safety improvement to providers, the public, accrediting bodies and public officials; and
- Opportunity for your organization to proactively improve patient safety.

## What are the PSO privacy and confidentiality protections?

**As a PSO participant, your hospital is protected.**

The exchange of data submitted through or received from a PSO is privileged and confidential by federal law and not subject to discovery in a civil or administrative proceeding; and

- All patient safety activities in which hospitals participate are performed in a manner that keeps the information that is shared confidential and protected from discovery.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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