



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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