



Texas Hospital Association Foundation

Texas Hospital Association Patient Safety Organization

What is a patient safety organization?

A patient safety organization is an entity through which health care organizations collaborate to improve quality and patient safety.

PSO activities include:

- Creating a secure environment for the collection and aggregation of patient safety information;
- Providing comparative data to hospitals to support patient safety improvements; and
- Allowing dialogue to occur across 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 60 hospitals together by region 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 issues such as sentinel events, quality and safety errors and the protocol established in response to suspend future issues;
- Aimed to reduce preventable adverse events, near misses, and unsafe conditions in all health settings; and
- Provide 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.

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

PSOs offer a number of benefits to your hospital and patients such as:

- Provide the aggregation of data within a comparative database on events of significant risk for your health care organization;
- Give your health care organization a comprehensive analysis of recurring patient safety events and identification of opportunities for improvement;
- Create a protected environment for the collaboration of health care organizations to improve care at the hospital level;
- Demonstrate a commitment for safety improvement to providers, the public, accrediting bodies and public officials; and
- Create the 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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