

Improving Health Care Quality and Patient Safety in Texas Hospitals

Zero harm and the best quality health care have always been the hallmarks of Texas hospitals' work.

However, in recent years, public and private payers have imposed financial incentives and penalties to accelerate hospitals' quality and patient safety initiatives.

The Texas Hospital Association supports the state's nearly 500 hospitals and health systems in their quality and patient safety work by leading initiatives that:

- Help hospitals collect, analyze and more effectively use their data.
- Engage hospitals in a variety of quality improvement initiatives to improve patient outcomes.

THA currently works with 350 Texas hospitals on numerous state and federally sponsored clinical initiatives, which are yielding impressive results and better patient care.

Texas Hospital Improvement Project



THA's largest project focuses on reducing "all-cause harm"—any unintended injury resulting from medical care that requires additional monitoring, treatment or hospitalization—and avoidable readmissions in short-stay hospitals, while enhancing hospitals' culture of safety and engagement with patients and families to improve care.

The project aims to reduce avoidable readmissions by 12 percent and harm by 20 percent by September 2018.

Since the project began in October 2016, participating hospitals have reduced avoidable readmissions by 8 percent and **prevented nearly 900 harms, with a cost savings of more than \$33 million to public and private payers.**

Critical Access Hospital Quality Improvement

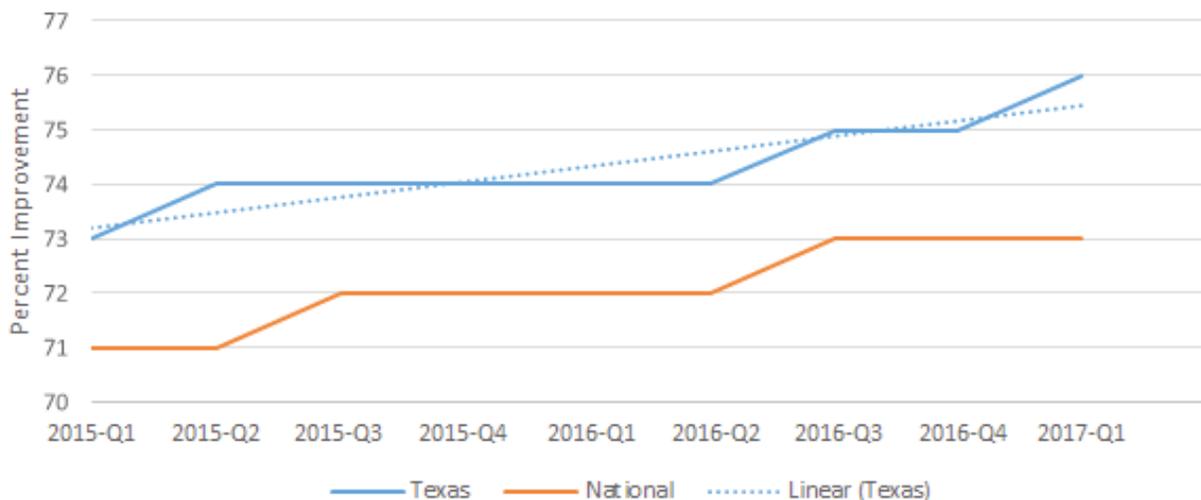


THA partners with the Texas Department of Agriculture's State Office of Rural Health to help critical access hospitals (small, rural hospitals) improve patient outcomes and publically report quality measure data focused on:

- Ensuring patients receive influenza vaccinations.
- Administering a consumer satisfaction survey.
- Improving transition from the CAH to other health care settings.
- Improving care provided in CAH outpatient settings.

In two years, hospitals participating in this project have improved patient outcomes and beat national averages in emergency department transitions of care, patient satisfaction and outpatient metrics for patients receiving cardiac care.

Patients' Overall Rating of Hospital Satisfaction



States Targeting Reduction in Infections via Engagement

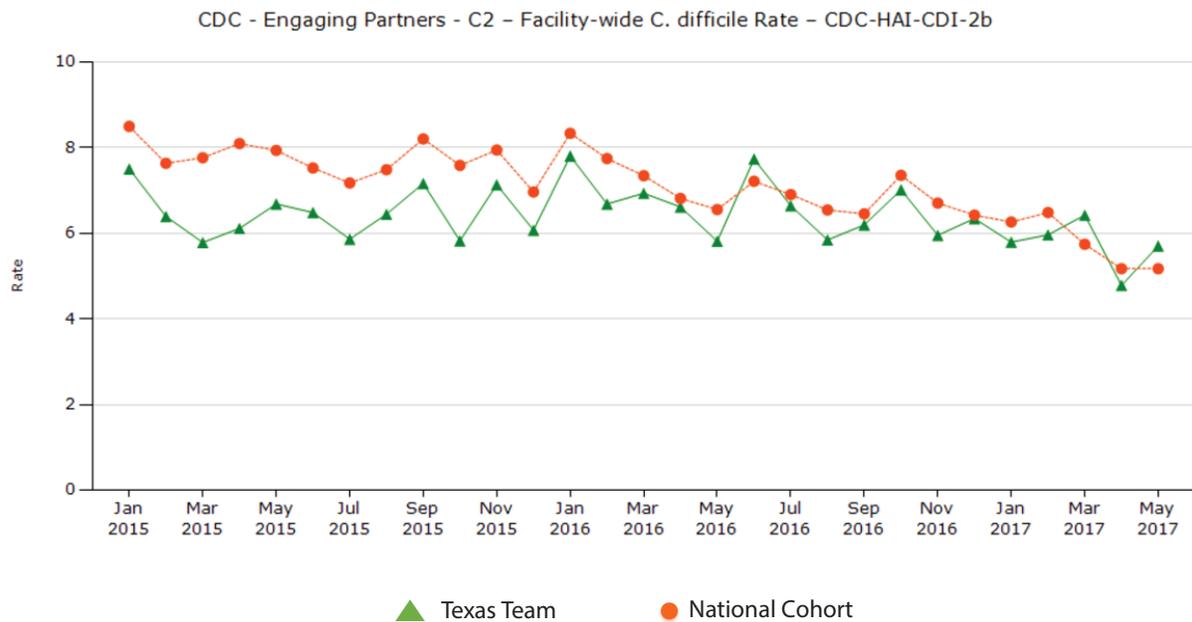


In partnership with the Texas Department of State Health Services, THA engages short-stay and long-term acute care hospitals' infection prevention personnel to reduce hospital-acquired infections. The 12-month STRIVE initiative focuses on reducing:

- Catheter-associated urinary tract infections.
- Central line-associated bloodstream infections.
- *Clostridium difficile* or "C. diff," severe inflammation of the colon.
- Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or "MRSA."

Participating hospitals met or exceeded national averages to reduce C. diff and MRSA infections from January 2015 through the spring of 2017. Specifically, THA helped participating hospitals prevent more than 200 harms and 9 deaths from C. diff infections, yielding nearly \$3.6 million in cost savings.

C.Diff



Patient Safety Organization



THA established a Patient Safety Organization in 2012 to help hospitals safely and confidentially collaborate with each other to learn how **to reduce significant adverse events that result in severe harm or death and to prevent future adverse events.**

THA's PSO offers:

- Safe table meetings where participants can discuss significant patient safety events, near misses, best practices and protocols for future prevention.
- Streamlined data submissions for participating hospitals.
- The opportunity for participating organizations to proactively improve patient safety.