



Mission to Care. Vision to Lead.

Florida Hospital Association

Leading the Way to Safer, Better Care for all Floridians

Florida's hospitals were the first in the nation to address readmissions rates across the state. More than 107 participated in a readmissions collaborative that succeeded in reducing readmissions by 11.3 percent in just two years. Today, this nationally recognized initiative is now part of the FHA's HEN.

Prior to participation in the PfP initiative, Florida's hospitals were among the first in the nation to tackle CLABSI and CAUTI rates through the "On the CUSP" program, successfully reducing CLABSI rates by 41 percent among participating hospitals.



Nothing is more important to Florida's hospitals than providing the safest and best possible care to all patients. To help hospitals achieve this important goal, the Florida Hospital Association (FHA) has launched patient safety and quality improvement initiatives with the goal of making Florida's hospitals among the best in the country.

By participating in nation-leading quality programs, Florida's hospitals have demonstrated that better, safer care at a greater value is possible. FHA members, through initiatives developed by FHA and other organizations, are working together to:

- Help patients heal more quickly, return home sooner and stay at home after their hospitalization
- Reduce the number of preventable surgical complications and save lives
- Make care safer for all patients
- Reduce complications and save lives, while reducing costs

Together, Florida's hospitals are demonstrating that they can change health care for the better.

Preventing Complications, Reducing Readmissions: Partnership for Patients

In 2012, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) launched the Partnership for Patients (PfP), aimed at reducing harm by 40 percent and readmissions by 20 percent in three years. Through a partnership with the American Hospital Association (AHA) and its Health Education Research Trust (HRET), the Florida Hospital Association has become a PfP Hospital Engagement Network. As a PfP network, FHA is providing training and technical assistance to facilitate the adoption of evidence-based clinical practices in participating hospitals in 10 key areas:

- Adverse drug events
- Central line-associated blood stream infection (CLABSI)
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI)
- Injury from falls and immobility
- Pressure ulcers
- Obstetrical adverse events
- Surgical site infection
- Venous thromboembolism (VTE)
- Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP)
- Readmissions

Additionally, the network has launched an Early Elective Deliveries (EEDs) initiative to reduce EEDs (births before 39 weeks) statewide to fewer than three percent of births by 2013.

Hospitals participating in the network focus on at least two of the 10 areas, and receive a wealth of tools, resources and support to improve in their target areas. Through regular educational meetings, a Quality Improvement Leadership Fellowship training program, and data analysis, hospitals are able to accelerate improvement.

Today, 76 hospitals across the state participate in FHA's network, while additional Florida hospitals are participating in networks created by other organizations.

Saving Lives, Preventing Surgical Complications: Florida Surgical Care Initiative

Aimed at preventing surgical complications, saving lives and reducing costs, the Florida Surgical Care Initiative (FSCI) is helping 68 hospitals across the state work together to improve surgical care. Initiated as a two-year pilot, FSCI launched in 2010 as a partnership with the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and BlueCross and BlueShield of Florida to improve care in four key areas – elderly surgical outcomes, colorectal outcomes, surgical site infection, and urinary tract infection. The four measures are based on the ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP), the leading surgical quality program named “Best in the Nation” by the Institute of Medicine.

Following the initial two-year pilot program, Florida hospitals now have the opportunity to participate in the FSCI collaborative in three ways:

- Enrolling in ACS NSQIP, which helps hospitals collect clinical, risk-adjusted, 30-day outcomes data in a nationally benchmarked database
- Joining the Surgical Unit-based Safety Program (SUSP), a national program developed by Johns Hopkins University and the American College of Surgeons to help hospitals improve surgical care by establishing a safety culture
- Participating in the Partnership for Patients, which allows hospitals to focus on reducing surgical site infection

Through FSCI, Florida’s hospitals have the opportunity to work together to improve surgical care across the state through sharing of data, ongoing educational opportunities including presentations by nationally recognized experts, and regular collaborative meetings.

Collaborating to Improve Patient Safety: PSOFlorida

Physicians and other clinicians traditionally have been reluctant to participate in peer review of patient safety events for fear of legal liability, professional sanctions, or harm to their reputations. Yet evidence suggests sharing best practices among hospitals improves safety.

Formed in 2010, PSOFlorida promotes patient safety collaboration in a legally protected environment – an issue especially important for Florida’s hospitals which face added scrutiny under Amendment 7, a law that opens a broad range of hospital documents to discovery in legal cases.

Certified under the federal Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act, PSOFlorida is a partnership of the South Florida Hospital & Healthcare Association and the ECRI Institute. Today, 30 hospitals and one physician clinic group participate in the program. By submitting their data, these hospitals receive aggregated reports and analysis that identify trends an individual provider, with its individual pool of data, may not be able to identify.

Hospitals participating in PSOFlorida benefit from expert patient safety analysis, advisories and culture-of-safety recommendations aimed at improving patient safety. Using the data analysis and expertise of the PSO, hospitals are able to work together to reduce adverse events and hospital-acquired conditions.

FSCI is the nation’s largest statewide surgical quality improvement collaborative. CMS considers its measures a national model for quality improvement that could be adopted nationally.



PSOFlorida not only helps hospitals identify opportunities to improve, it can also help them implement cultural changes and measure when those changes are taking effect.

Leading the Way to Safer, Better Care

Better Care for All Floridians

Florida's hospitals, through initiatives established by the FHA and other organizations, are working to set a national example for better quality care at a greater value. Together, hospitals participating in these initiatives:

- Were the first to address readmissions as a state and to publicly report readmissions rates
- Joined together to establish the nation's largest surgical quality improvement collaborative
- Launched a national model for surgical quality that could be adopted by CMS
- Became one of the first states to join the nationally recognized program to reduce CLABSI and CAUTI and succeeded in reducing infection rates among participating hospitals
- Worked together to establish a legally protected environment to improve patient safety
- Joined hospitals across the nation in our country's largest initiative to improve care and reduce harm

By working together, Florida's hospitals are showing that better care for all Floridians is possible.



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