Executive engagement key to successful patient safety initiatives

With medical errors cited as the third leading cause of death in the United States, patient safety initiatives such as checklists and pre-procedure time-outs have become common. Many hospitals, however, undervalue the need for executive engagement in these efforts. According to The Joint Commission, between 75 and 80 percent of programs that require people to change behaviors fail when organizational leadership is not involved. (Sources: Institute for Healthcare Improvement, The Joint Commission)

An Institute of Medicine report on medical errors in the U.S. noted that most errors are the result of faulty systems or processes rather than individual failures. Leaders can strengthen these systems by motivating staff, promoting transparency around quality and safety issues and providing the resources and training opportunities necessary to make measurable patient safety gains. (Sources: American College of Healthcare Executives, The Joint Commission)

In its 2015 Comprehensive Accreditation Manual, The Joint Commission included a new Patient Safety Systems chapter, designed to promote staff accountability, initiate risk management strategies and determine the tools needed to manage relevant data. The chapter, unlike the full manual, is available for free online. (Sources: The Joint Commission, Modern Healthcare)
Engage your executive leadership in setting patient safety goals and devising strategies to achieve them. Involve medical staff in the development and implementation of specific programs. (Source: ACHE)

Consider implementing Patient Safety Executive Walkarounds, periodic announced visits to each department to discuss safety issues with employees—not to investigate individual actions, but to examine facility practices. (Source: Kaiser Permanente)

Review your facility's patient safety systems and compare them with the standards of the Joint Commission.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY

06

Pacers vs. Cavaliers
Bankers Life Fieldhouse

Moon over Buffalo
The Center for the Performing Arts

Tango Buenos Aires
The Center for the Performing Arts

Melanie Martinez
Old National Centre

Amer. Physical Therapy Assn.
Combined Sections Mtg
Indiana Convention Center & Lucas Oil Stadium

Saturday

07

Amer. Physical Therapy Assn.
Combined Sections Mtg
Indiana Convention Center & Lucas Oil Stadium

No Mass Gatherings Scheduled

H.S Basketball 4-Games
Bankers Life Fieldhouse

2015 AAA Vacation Planning Expo

Sunday

08

Jim Belushi & The Board of Comedy
The Center for the Performing Arts

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