

News Release

From the Missouri Center for Patient Safety



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Missouri Moves Closer to Accurate Medical Error Data and Prevention Missouri Center for Patient Safety receives federal designation to help

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Effective Nov. 5, Missouri will be among the first ten organizations announced as using a new federal program to learn how, when and why medical errors happen across the state.

On Wednesday, Nov. 5, the Missouri Center for Patient Safety will be designated as an official Patient Safety Organization (PSO). This designation allows the Center to safely collect and report information about medical errors.

“Until now, there was no system to obtain reliable data that tells us how often medical errors occur in Missouri. To get it, health care providers need somewhere to openly report errors, near-errors and best-practices. As a PSO, the Missouri Center for Patient Safety can now start collecting this data. Then we can begin analysis and reporting, and start answering questions about the safety of health care in Missouri,” said Becky Miller, executive director of MOCPS.

“There is nothing like this in our state right now. Knowing when and why medical errors happen in Missouri is the first step towards making real progress in fighting them,” Miller said.

Federal PSO requirements are defined in the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act

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of 2005. The PSOs will form a network of organizations across the nation to encourage reporting of errors and increase knowledge about why errors occur and how they can be prevented. The federal government estimates PSOs will collectively reduce preventable adverse events by up to 3%, saving up to \$435 million in health care costs within their first five years of operation.

As a designated PSO, MOCPS will expand on its work over the past three years to support and facilitate ongoing statewide patient safety improvement; increase provider and consumer knowledge about medical errors and decrease medical errors and health care costs.

Missouri is one of the first states to have a listed PSO. The designation is given through the Agency for Health Research and Quality and the U.S. Department of Health and Senior Services.

About MOCPS

As a private, not-for-profit corporation, the Missouri Center for Patient Safety (MOCPS) is dedicated to fostering change throughout Missouri's health care systems. Based in Jefferson City, the mission of MOCPS is to improve health care quality and patient safety in collaboration with health care providers, physicians, purchasers, consumers and government. Online at www.mocps.org.

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