Tennessee Center for Patient Safety
Key Initiatives

Hospital Collaborative on Reducing Healthcare-Acquired Infections

In 2007, the Tennessee Hospital Association (THA) launched the Tennessee Center for Patient Safety (TCPS), which provides education, resources and other tools to assist hospitals in accelerating their performance on quality and patient safety initiatives. The association received a three-year grant from the Blue Cross-Blue Shield Tennessee Health Foundation to fund the center. This project is a collaboration between Tennessee hospitals, healthcare providers and professional organizations to reduce healthcare-acquired infections through the implementation of evidence-based strategies. Collaboration continues throughout Tennessee at regional networking meetings and biannual statewide conferences.

The team participation includes:
- 122 Hospitals enrolled as safety partners
- SCIP – 77 teams
- Central Lines – 64 teams
- MRSA – 67 teams

Specific aims of the collaborative include:
- Improve the culture of safety; the AHRQ survey is available free through the Tennessee Center for Patient Safety
- Reduce patient harm by significantly reducing or eliminating central line bloodstream infections
- Reduce Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus transmission
- Meet or exceed the national goal of a 25 percent reduction in surgical complications by implementing the Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) measures
- Implement Comprehensive Unit-Based Safety Program (CUSP)

Key partners include the, Association of Professionals in Infection Control, Tennessee Association for Healthcare Quality, Tennessee Department of Health and QSource.

Tennessee Nursing Partners Collaborative

The nursing partners collaborative, under the leadership of the Tennessee Organization of Nurse Executives (TONE), is focused on the linkages between work environment and patient safety and quality outcomes. The project introduces strategies to build a culture of safety and teamwork, as well as share best practices for workforce retention.

The collaborative has identified four areas for implementation of pilot projects:
- Building a culture of safety and teamwork
- Staffing to meet individual patient needs
- Sharing hospital performance
- Addressing the workforce shortage
The project activities align with national models for nursing professional practice and magnet hospital principles. The nursing partners have held annual leadership summits for chief nursing officers and human resource leaders. THA and the nursing partners collaborative are also leading the retention projects for the TN Robert Wood Johnson Partners Investing in Nursing grant. In 2008 the collaborative hosted a conference on workforce retention with presentations highlighting successful strategies from hospitals across Tennessee. The RWJ funds were also used to support a leadership institute for nurse managers.

Key partners in the nursing collaborative, in addition to TONE, include the Tennessee Nurses Association, Tennessee Center for Nursing, Tennessee Society for Healthcare Human Resources and Tennessee Health Care Association and Deans and Directors of Nursing Programs.

**Tennessee NSQIP Surgical Quality Collaborative**

The Tennessee Surgical Quality Collaborative (TSQC) is a pilot project consisting of 10 Tennessee hospitals seeking to measure and improve the care of surgical patients throughout the state.

The TSQC is a unique collaboration between the Tennessee Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, the Tennessee Hospital Association’s Center for Patient Safety and participating NSQIP hospitals. The TSQC was funded through a generous three year grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield’s Tennessee Health Foundation. This funding significantly reduces barriers for Tennessee surgeons and hospitals wishing to participate in – and benefit from – the program.

Participating Hospitals:
- Baptist Memorial Hospital Memphis, TN
- Cookeville Regional Medical Center Cookeville, TN
- Erlanger Health System Chattanooga, TN
- Jackson-Madison County General Hospital Jackson, TN
- Johnson City Medical Center Johnson City, TN
- Methodist University Hospital Memphis, TN
- Parkwest Medical Center Knoxville, TN
- Saint Francis Hospital Memphis, TN
- University of Tennessee Medical Center Knoxville, TN
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center Nashville, TN

[www.tnsqc.org](http://www.tnsqc.org)


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