



Michigan Health and Safety Coalition Hospital Survey Changes in the 2007 MH&SC Joint Hospital Survey Process

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Michigan Association of Health Plans

Michigan Consumer Health Care Coalition

Michigan Department of Community Health

Michigan Education Special Services Association

Michigan Health & Hospital Association

Michigan Nurses Association

Michigan Osteopathic Association

Michigan Pharmacists Association

Michigan State Medical Society

MPRO, Michigan's Healthcare Quality Improvement Organization

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Background

The Michigan Health and Safety Coalition (MH&SC) survey of hospital patient safety practices was one of the first of its kind in the country. It began in 2001 - before any national consensus-based patient safety practices existed. To fill this void, MH&SC convened Michigan-based expert clinical panels to develop the MH&SC hospital guidelines. Creating and maintaining our own guidelines is resource-intensive but made sense when no other source of consensus-based patient safety practices was available.

Six years later, there is a much different environment where several sources of national patient safety guidelines exist, including the Joint Commission (JCAHO), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the National Quality Forum (NQF) and others.

MH&SC's New Direction

To address the continuing need for patient safety improvements, and recognizing the current availability of patient safety practice guidelines, the MH&SC Board of Directors approved setting a new direction for its patient safety efforts. The MH&SC will leave the guideline development business and instead will focus its resources on patient safety issues that are of special interest in Michigan and are NOT being addressed by national organizations. These topics are currently under development and will be communicated as they take shape.

The "new direction" will be a set of initiatives and activities in lieu of the annual Joint Hospital Survey in 2007. It is possible that some of these initiatives will entail a survey or other data collection as part of their implementation; that will be determined as the initiatives are developed. The intention is to more effectively use MH&SC staff resources, reduce the duplication of work for providers and implement collaborative initiatives that are based on gaps in performance as identified through multiple patient safety performance data.

The MH&SC new direction in 2007 will be an opportunity to continue Michigan's leadership in improving patient safety. Thank you in advance for your support.

MH&SC Support for The Leapfrog Group Survey

The MH&SC has collaborated with The Leapfrog Group (Leapfrog) since 2003 on the Joint Hospital Survey when the two separate surveys were combined into one data collection tool and administered simultaneously. In 2007, however, the Leapfrog survey will be administered separately and on its national roll-out schedule. Leapfrog has revised its schedule to the period March 5 through May 31 and entails many changes in content. The MH&SC has chosen to focus its resources on its new direction rather than expending scarce resources on survey development, collection and coordination.

The MH&SC supports the efforts of Leapfrog and other national organizations in the development and implementation of evidence- and consensus-based practices and measurement. The MH&SC will continue to promote hospital participation in Leapfrog's survey, as it has since 2003, by coordinating communications about Leapfrog's survey to Michigan's hospitals. In return for its assistance, the MH&SC will obtain data from the Leapfrog survey (and other valid national data sources as they become available) for supplementation of its databases and initiatives. This will provide MH&SC with a broader picture of hospital performance and more opportunities to develop implementation projects that address observed gaps in performance.