



Happy holidays from the Michigan Health and Safety Coalition

The Michigan Health and Safety Coalition wishes you and your family safe and happy holidays and a prosperous new year.

Simmer resigns as board chair

With great reluctance, the Michigan Health and Safety Coalition has accepted Dr. Tom Simmer’s resignation from the coalition, which he has served since its inception in 2000. MH&SC extends its sincere thanks to Dr. Simmer for his clear vision, principled passion and uncompromising integrity in the patient safety arena over the past eight years.



Dr. Simmer became the chairman of MH&SC in early 2004. MH&SC accomplished much under his leadership. Dr. Simmer led the State Commission on Patient Safety, which produced a report to the governor laying out a detailed plan to improve patient safety in Michigan. He convened the coalition’s annual patient safety conference from 2004 to 2007, bringing national and state leaders together to share patient safety best practices. He provided oversight to the MH&SC annual hospital survey, which ultimately led to a partnership with the Leapfrog Group, which measures and publicly reports hospital quality and safety on a standardized basis across the country. And finally, he improved statewide communication about patient safety initiatives, launching this newsletter, *Safe Passages*, and enhancing the coalition’s Web site.

The past years have seen significant improvements in patient safety across the state. Please join MH&SC in thanking Tom for his selfless leadership during this time of rapid — and often turbulent — change. We know his voice will continue to be heard on quality and patient safety issues through his work as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan’s chief medical officer.

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Leapfrog Hospital Survey: We're sharing the results

As of Nov. 30, 2008, 88 hospitals have completed the Leapfrog Hospital Survey — a response rate of 63.8 percent. Michigan is the third highest statewide region and continues to have a higher participation rate than the national average of 40.5 percent.

The Michigan Health and Safety Coalition has presented results of the Leapfrog Hospital Survey at the MPRO Quality Expo on Oct. 30, the Health Issues in the Arab American Community biannual conference on Nov. 5 and 6 (sponsored by ACCESS), and the Pneumonia Collaborative Series for Improvement (sponsored by MPRO and the Greater Detroit Area Health Coalition) on Nov. 17. We have loaned a poster presentation to Oakwood Hospital for further viewing.

Check our Web site at mihealthandsafety.org for the latest performance results on the leaps and other measures. Individual hospital results can be found at Leapfroggroup.org.

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Here's what some of Dr. Simmer's MH&SC colleagues have to say about him:

“Tom has a unique balance of personal characteristics which has served the Michigan Health and Safety Coalition admirably throughout his tenure. The good will, common sense and collaborative nature of his leadership style significantly contributed to the successes we enjoyed. Michigan Health and Safety Coalition members will greatly miss having him at the table.”

Colleen Cieszkowski, RN, BS, MA, CPHQ

Senior Vice President

MPRO

“As chair of the Michigan State Commission on Patient Safety, Dr. Simmer very ably led a diverse group of stakeholders to reach agreement on a set of recommendations to move Michigan forward in assuring the safety of all patients. For this, the citizens of Michigan, Governor Granholm and I will be forever grateful to him. The Commission report outlines a path for the state that will be relevant for many years to come.”

Janet Olszewski

Director

Michigan Department of Community Health

“In his role as its Chair, Dr. Tom Simmer has identified a clear vision for the MH&SC that has allowed it to bring a broad range of stakeholders together in a forum intended to shift focus from individual organizational needs to the collective needs of Michigan patients. There is growing realization that the real gains in patient safety cannot be made in silos and Dr. Simmer's leadership of the MH&SC has demonstrated his commitment to that concept. Most notable is his perspective that change can only be made by harnessing the energy of voluntary collaboration, and Tom's support of efforts such as the MHA's Keystone Center is just one example.

Tom will be missed at the coalition's table. Yet he leaves a legacy of commitment to safe, high-quality patient care.”

David Seaman

Executive Vice President

Michigan Health & Hospital Association

“Tom Simmer was critical in the successful growth of the Michigan Health and Safety Coalition at a time that health and patient safety was gaining recognition within the state and the country. His leadership and commitment to improving patient safety was essential as the Health and Safety Coalition transitioned from an organizational coalition to a stand-alone nonprofit organization devoted to improving the care and safety of patients in the state of Michigan.”

Larry D. Wagenknecht

Chief Executive Officer

Michigan Pharmacists Association



Modifications to the Leapfrog Hospital Survey for 2009

To reflect new learning about quality and safety measures, the Leapfrog Hospital Survey is modified each year. You can view proposed changes to the survey in detail at Leapfroggroup.org. Highlights include:

- Using the scored results from the Leapfrog Computerized Physician Order Entry Evaluation Tool to assess if a hospital's CPOE system is alerting physicians to at least 50 percent of common serious prescribing errors
- Replacing the traditional quality scores for evidence-based hospital referral high-risk surgeries with the survival predictor mortality composite measure
- Introducing a new "common acute condition" that measures hospital performance on perinatal care ("-normal deliveries-")
- Measuring rates of an additional hospital-acquired condition that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will no longer pay for — central line-associated bloodstream infections

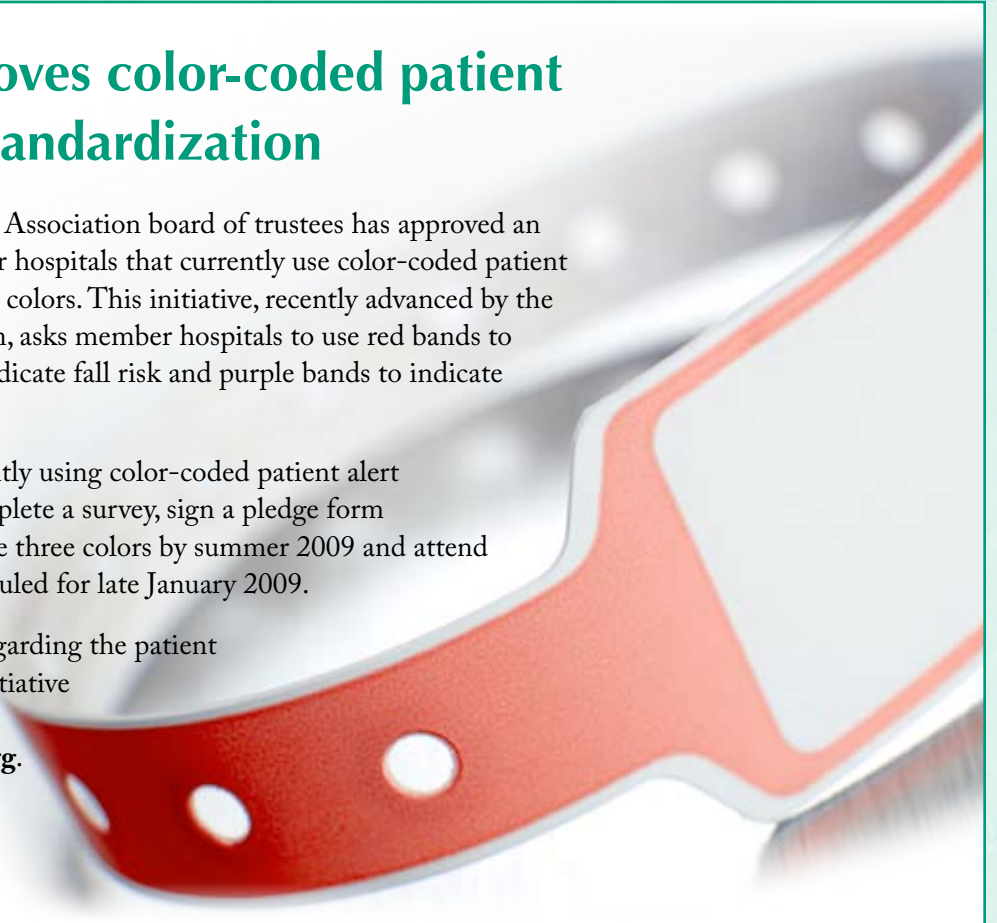
In November, Leapfrog invited the public to comment on the changes. Responses to the feedback they receive will be posted at Leapfroggroup.org in early 2009.

MHA board approves color-coded patient alert wristband standardization

The Michigan Health & Hospital Association board of trustees has approved an initiative asking all MHA-member hospitals that currently use color-coded patient alert wristbands to standardize the colors. This initiative, recently advanced by the MHA Patient Safety Organization, asks member hospitals to use red bands to indicate allergy, yellow bands to indicate fall risk and purple bands to indicate do-not-resuscitate.

Representatives of hospitals currently using color-coded patient alert wristbands are being asked to complete a survey, sign a pledge form indicating they will standardize the three colors by summer 2009 and attend educational sessions that are scheduled for late January 2009.

MHA members with questions regarding the patient alert wristband standardization initiative should contact Morgan Martin at the MHA at mmartin@mha.org.



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Michigan Health and Safety Coalition members

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

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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

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Final rule issued for patient safety organizations

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued a final rule for patient safety organizations.

The rule becomes effective on Jan. 19, 2009. It provides final requirements and procedures for PSOs, new entities with which clinicians and health care providers can work to collect, aggregate and analyze data — within a legally secure environment of privilege and confidentiality — to identify and reduce patient care risks and hazards.

You can find out more about the final rule at pso.ahrq.gov/regulations/finalrule.htm.

