As many as 440,000 people die each year due to medical error in the United States, making it the third leading cause of death in our country, behind only cancer and heart disease.

Your support will help keep patients free from harm.

NPSF
National Patient Safety Foundation®
Creating a world where patients and those who care for them are free from harm.
An estimated 8,000,000 people per year are seriously harmed from preventable medical mistakes

Our Vision
Creating a world where patients and those who care for them are free from harm.

Our Mission
NPSF partners with patients and families, the health care community, and key stakeholders to advance patient safety and health care workforce safety and disseminate strategies to prevent harm.

Our Goals
• Engage with patients, families, and communities
• Engage the health care community
• Partner with key stakeholders
• Impact health care leaders and policy makers

“Since its founding in 1997 the National Patient Safety Foundation has provided a unique forum to address the challenge of improving safety. Its approach is based on the best of safety science being applied through the lens of a multistakeholder approach. It is the one place where providers, patients, caregivers, researchers, policy makers, and industry can rally around the common goal of making health care safer for all.”

— Gregg S. Meyer, MD, MSc
Chair, NPSF Board of Directors
Chief Clinical Officer, Partners HealthCare
Adverse events in health care pose a significant threat to public health

As recently reported in the *Journal of Patient Safety*, up to 440,000 people die each year due to medical error in the United States.* That’s over 1,000 deaths every day. More people die from preventable adverse events in health care than from car accidents, diabetes, stroke, kidney disease, or Alzheimer’s disease. These numbers indicate that medical error is the third leading cause of death in our country, behind only cancer and heart disease.**

Deaths due to such errors are equivalent to four jumbo jets crashing each day of the year. Were these aircraft- or automobile-related incidents, the response in the public, private, governmental, and media sectors would be dramatic. And these staggering numbers exclude an estimated 8,000,000 people per year who are seriously harmed from nonlethal preventable medical mistakes. The heavy toll on patients and families is significant indeed, with physical, emotional, and financial impact. *None of us is untouched by this issue.* Yet, because these adverse events happen one at a time across thousands of hospitals, ambulatory facilities, and other health care settings, perception and awareness of patient safety issues remain shockingly low.

Founded in 1997, the National Patient Safety Foundation was, and remains today, focused singularly on the issues and implications of harm in health care. As a pioneer of the patient safety movement, committed to seeking solutions, NPSF is driven by its vision of “creating a world where patients and those who care for them are free from harm.”

Patient Safety has been enhanced in our organization through participation in NPSF programs. We’ve had sites that have started team meetings and safety huddles, they’ve initiated the use of standardized tools, and handoff tools to help improve communication and teamwork. . . . We’ve also had a site report that they’ve signed safety pledges, where they’ve agreed together to follow up on unsafe practices and work together as a team and hold each other accountable.

— Rebekah Haggard, MD, CHCQM, CCHP
Vice President and Patient Safety Officer
Corizon Health

Helen Haskell is president of Consumers Advancing Patient Safety and a member of the NPSF Board of Directors. After her 15-year-old son, Lewis, died after surgery, she founded Mothers Against Medical Error and began her work as an advocate and voice for change.

“Our son had slowly died from a severe medication reaction while his nurses and residents seemed unable even to respond to our pleas for help. I was stunned at the disorganization we had witnessed and felt that my son’s death would be meaningless if we did not do all we could to change this situation. And that is really what has propelled me forward: the overwhelming need to find meaning in what would otherwise be the senseless loss of this child who we thought was going to be a rising star of the next generation.

“NPSF and programs like Patient Safety Awareness Week were beacons to patient advocates like me because they were among the few places where patient safety seemed to actually focus on the patient. Since its inception, Patient Safety Awareness Week has been an important symbol of hospital involvement in patient safety. It continues to be a vehicle to promote change.”
Setting Standards for the Field: Advancing Safety Science and Practice

The National Patient Safety Foundation fosters issue awareness; creates and disseminates patient safety educational resources; engages health care professionals, leaders, and policy makers; identifies and tackles strategic imperatives in the field; works closely with industry, patients, and families; and provides the tools essential to driving implementation of best practices. Taking a proven collaborative approach in all that we do, NPSF serves as educators, facilitators, and subject matter experts. We have the ability to bring together stakeholders from across the continuum of care, and to influence the influencers.

NPSF advances patient safety science, practice, and community through targeted initiatives including online courses, certification programs, educational modules, conferences, and networking events, as well as membership programs for health care professionals, provider organizations, associations, and industry. In addition, we offer tools and resources such as webinars, blogs, white papers, research reports, newsletters, calls to action, and other publications on various topics essential to patient safety.

Each year, more than 1,000 health care leaders attend our three-day NPSF Patient Safety Congress, a long-standing cornerstone of NPSF activities, attracting experts in the field and multidisciplinary health care professionals committed to patient safety. Attendees exchange ideas and best practices, and participate in educational sessions and keynote presentations led by thought leaders from around the world. This event is the only one of its kind dedicated solely to advancing patient safety.

“The NPSF Congress has been a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to listen to nationally recognized experts in the world of patient safety, and also to learn from other institutions about best practices that they have been successful with in their organizations.”

— Orla Brandos, DNP, MBA, MSN, RN, CPHQ, NEA-BC
Associate Chief Nurse, Maternal Child Health
Newton-Wellesley Hospital

“NPSF since its inception has been the recognized leader in advancing the efforts to raise professional and public awareness of the issue of patient safety and has been in the forefront of systems and cultural improvement work to reduce avoidable harm and death. Through its Lucian Leape Institute, recognized leaders in the patient safety movement come together to explore breakthrough concepts to significantly improve the performance of our health care organizations and professionals. In addition, NPSF has focused on family members of those harmed by medical error, as well as care teams that are also impacted.”

— Gary S. Kaplan, MD, FACMPE
Member, NPSF Board of Directors
Chairman and CEO
Virginia Mason Health System
Promoting Awareness and Education Among Health Consumers

Since 2003, NPSF has led Patient Safety Awareness Week, a nationwide campaign to raise awareness of patient safety among the general public and the health care industry. The Foundation provides educational materials and webinars for health care professionals and health consumers, and develops and distributes information relevant to a theme chosen for the year. In 2014, more than 1,600 individuals tuned in to a webcast series about diagnostic error, including one session devoted to the patient's perspective and what patients can do to help ensure they get the right diagnoses.

NPSF also addresses health literacy, which is defined as “the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.”* Among our population—regardless of age, income level, or education—poor health literacy remains a serious barrier to greater patient engagement in health care and health safety. NPSF works to improve health literacy with a validated method, Ask Me 3, which gives patients a simple way to focus on what’s most important when they visit their clinicians.


Creating Community: Membership and Certification Programs

Through its membership programs, NPSF has direct channels to health professionals and other stakeholders with the goal of informing, educating, and raising awareness. The American Society of Professionals in Patient Safety (ASPPS) serves individuals as the first and only multidisciplinary professional society with patient safety as its organizing principle; the Stand Up for Patient Safety program provides health care facilities with tools and best practices for advancing a culture of patient safety in their organizations; and the NPSF Patient Safety Coalition brings together stakeholders from industry, specialty associations, and other foundations, with the collaborative goal of enhancing the delivery of safe care.

In addition, the Foundation created the Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CPPS) certification program, which establishes guidelines for patient safety competency and distinguishes health care professionals who meet specific knowledge requirements and demonstrate the ability to apply this knowledge in the implementation of patient safety initiatives.
Patient Safety for years has suffered from [uncertainty about] ‘What is it? What is the science behind it? What are the metrics around it? How do you measure it?’ For people who want to take a leadership position in patient safety, the CPPS credential adds some objective criteria to what it is we do every day.

— Vincent Barba, MD, FACP, FHM, CPPS, CQO
Chief Quality Officer
University Hospital, New Jersey Medical School

Our Impact
The National Patient Safety Foundation . . .

- Launched the patient safety movement in 1997 and remains singularly focused on patient safety awareness and action.
- Convenes the Annual NPSF Patient Safety Congress (17 years running), educating thousands of health care professionals in best practices in safe care delivery.
- Created the NPSF Lucian Leape Institute, a patient safety think tank committed to advancing a systemic view of safety imperatives and providing real-world, action-driven recommendations.
- Since 2003, has led Patient Safety Awareness Week, a global campaign to inform and educate health professionals and the public about patient safety. In 2014, more than 300 organizations took part, and more than 1,600 individuals tuned in to a webinar series addressing the issue of diagnostic error.
- Established the first patient safety research grants program, which has provided nearly $3.9 million in grant funding to support 39 research projects, resulting in meaningful advances in the field.
- Provides educational resources for professionals across health care, driving both foundational patient safety knowledge and advanced tools for those deeply engaged in safety work.
- Established the Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CPPS) credentialing exam in 2012, validating an individual’s proficiency in safety knowledge and best practices; already more than 600 health professionals have been certified in patient safety.
- With a commitment to engaging all stakeholders, has created programs for both individuals and organizations—physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other health professionals; patient advocates, students, and researchers; hospital and health system leaders; hospital systems, physician practices, state agencies, and other entities; and industry organizations focused on patient safety solutions.
Linda Kenney is founder and executive director of Medically Induced Trauma Support Services and a long-serving member of the NPSF governing boards. She became involved in patient safety after experiencing a near-fatal adverse event during surgery in 1999. In 2004, she and the physician involved came together to share their story at the NPSF Patient Safety Congress. Subsequently, she was the first patient to participate in the AHA-NPSF Patient Safety Leadership Fellowship.

“Having the opportunity to participate in the fellowship did so much for me personally and professionally. I learned a tremendous amount, and I felt like I was on the same playing field, learning the same things that professionals were learning. At the conclusion, I heard from others that having a patient in the room changed people’s perspectives. I brought a perspective that I think health professionals had not heard before—not one that was confrontational, just different. The enrichment of having all perspectives made the conversation different.

Ten years ago, when I took the stage at the NPSF Congress, it was the first time a patient and a physician had come together to speak about an error. NPSF gave us a platform to share our story and what we thought we could contribute as far as emotional support around these events that inevitably still happen today. NPSF helped us start a conversation on a national scale, where before it had been mostly local.”

“If you are working in health care, you need to be interested in patient safety. . . . The opportunity to receive additional training in the science of patient safety was most helpful to me.”

— Mary Anderson, MT (ASCP), CIC, CPHQ, CPPS
Infection Control Manager
Edward Hospital & Health System

“The National Patient Safety Foundation has fostered numerous channels to connect health professionals and patient advocates to best practices and the latest safety science. As a central voice for patient safety, NPSF has supported important initiatives, such as a national policy for flu safety, encouraging flu vaccination for health care workers to ensure they do not transmit the number one vaccine-preventable infectious cause of death to patients.”

— Jonathan Perlin, MD, PhD, MHSA, FACP, FACMI
Member, NPSF Board of Directors
President, Clinical Services
Chief Medical Officer
Hospital Corporation of America
Identifying New Approaches

The patient safety field involves research, science, and the development of protocols that make it easy for people to do their jobs safely. But changing the status quo also requires leadership and an understanding of the complex environment in which health care is delivered. In 2007, at our 10-year anniversary, NPSF created the Lucian Leape Institute to provide vision and a strategic roadmap for the field. Named for Dr. Lucian Leape, who is widely considered to be the “father” of the modern patient safety movement in the US and who has since served as the Institute’s chair, the Institute is charged with identifying new approaches to improving patient safety at a systems level.

Composed of national thought leaders in patient safety, the Institute has produced a number of influential reports on broad issues that include the safety of the workforce as a necessary ingredient to patient safety; patient engagement; care transitions; and reform of medical education to emphasize patient safety for physicians in training.

“Founded to be the voice for patient safety in the US and globally, NPSF has from its beginning been the only organization dedicated solely to reducing preventable harm from health care. NPSF has provided a vibrant forum for leaders and stakeholders on its boards; its programs and annual congress have inspired and educated leaders and practitioners; and its Lucian Leape Institute has provided vision and strategies for improving the safety of care. For all of us who are dedicated to injury-free care, NPSF is the indispensible resource.”

— Lucian L. Leape, MD
Chair, NPSF Lucian Leape Institute
Adjunct Professor of Health Policy
Harvard School of Public Health

NPSF President and CEO Dr. Tejal Gandhi, as well as several of our board members, were included in Modern Healthcare’s “100 Most Influential People in Healthcare” for 2014. The expertise of our leadership is unmatched in the patient safety space.
A CALL FOR SUPPORT

Now, more than ever, we need to drive change. NPSF has the expertise, experience, and proven track record to advance patient safety. But we need your help.

As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, we are proactively seeking private philanthropic support to augment funding derived from our various programs, to generate new sources of revenue, and to allow us to accelerate the transformation of the patient safety field.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT NPSF

You may designate your contribution to support a specific area of focus based on your interest (ask us about naming opportunities) or to support the Foundation’s overall mission. Examples include:

Program-Specific Support

- Patient Safety Research Grant
- Patient Safety Leadership fellows
- Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CPPS) credentialing
- Leadership Chair on the NPSF Lucian Leape Institute (our strategic think tank)
- Lucian Leape Institute fellow
- Staff grant writer
- NPSF Online Patient Safety Curriculum next edition
- The Foundation’s nationwide campaign for safety (Patient Safety Awareness Week)
- NPSF health literacy program (Ask Me 3)
- Professional Learning Series patient safety webcasts
- Group memberships in the American Society of Professionals in Patient Safety
- NPSF Patient Safety Congress educational grant

Memorial Donations

Honoring a cherished friend or relative

Operational Support

Providing funding to ensure the Foundation’s capacity to aggressively expand our reach and impact in the field

Matching Funds from Your Organization

Estate Planning/Planned Giving

To find out more about what we do and how you can help, contact Dr. Tejal Gandhi, President and CEO, at tgandhi@npsf.org or 617.391.9904, or David Coletta, Senior Vice President, Strategic Alliances, at dcoletta@npsf.org or 617.391.9908.
Ilene Corina is a patient advocate, founder of PULSE of NY, and a long-serving member of the NPSF governing boards. Her first child, Michael, died of an adverse event in 1990, but she became active in the patient safety field only after her youngest child needed surgery.

“Matthew was born premature at just 23 weeks. His team in the neonatal intensive care unit was amazing, and he survived. When he was 3 years old, he needed surgery. Yet even though he had 24-hour nursing care and lung problems, and I met with the anesthesiologists in the weeks before his surgery, the doctor said I would have to wait until the day of surgery and see who would be available. The system was taking away my right to choose a doctor for Matt, after I’d helped get him over the painful humps so early in his life. I was determined to change things—or at least be heard.

“The joy is that Matt survived being born so early, with no disabilities, and today is healthy. I credit that to the partnership between me and his medical team. I experienced both the worst and the best of health care, and I want people to know what I know.

“NPSF has been a leader in bringing the patient and family’s voice to the table, and that’s what I try to do in my work today. When I talk to the community about health care, it’s not about ‘us’ and ‘them,’ but when you are a patient, you’re vulnerable.”

“To fulfill our mission, we must expand and increase our reach. Additional funding resources will allow us to aggressively advance the necessary innovations that will create sustainable improvements in patient safety throughout the American health care system and ensure that we continue to provide meaningful resources for health care professionals and patients.

“In my work on health care issues, I speak often about the safety of patients and the health care workforce. I have known the National Patient Safety Foundation to be a vital voice and resource in national efforts to improve the safety and quality of our health care system.”

— Paul O’Neill
NPSF Lucian Leape Institute Member
Former Chairman and CEO, Alcoa
72nd Secretary of the US Treasury
By engaging with patients, families, and the health care community, partnering with key stakeholders, and impacting health care leaders and policy makers, NPSF can truly make strides in the health care safety field and work toward creating a world where patients and those who care for them are free from harm.

**We need your help to fulfill our mission. . . .**

Find out more about what you can do.

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