



IMPROVING SAFETY in EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Expert Panel Overview

■ BACKGROUND

The Betsy Lehman Center is coordinating an initiative to address critical patient safety risks in emergency medicine in Massachusetts. Applying a model the Center developed to help health care providers mitigate emerging and persistent risks to patient safety in their particular areas of practice, the Center will convene a multi-stakeholder effort aimed at improving safety for patients and staff in today's challenging emergency medicine environment. The initiative is supported by key professional associations, industry associations and state agencies that are committed to improving safety in emergency department settings.

■ PURPOSE OF THIS INITIATIVE

The goal of this initiative is to develop, aggregate, and disseminate practical recommendations and tools to support the efforts of Massachusetts acute care hospitals to advance the safe delivery of emergency care in their facilities.

■ ROLE OF THE EXPERT PANEL

The Expert Panel will provide critical guidance and expertise in shaping the outcomes of this initiative, including to:

- Further refine the scope of the initiative's depth and breadth
- Assess information gathered from literature searches, key informant interviews, data analysis, and other sources
- Identify core patient safety competencies that emergency departments should foster to ensure patient and staff safety
- Solicit and review relevant strategies that hospitals have successfully deployed to mitigate safety risks in the delivery of emergency care
- Develop findings and recommendations that will help hospitals address high priority safety risks in emergency care
- Plan for the implementation and dissemination of the expert panel's recommendations

Expert Panel members represent 12 healthcare organizations from across the state and include representation from pediatrics, emergency management, and the patient perspective. Stakeholder and expert input are keys to the success of patient safety improvement initiatives. The Center looks forward to serving as a resource for this important work.

