

PSO Reporting Allows Providers to ‘Get Back to Taking Care of Patients’

“As healthcare providers, we have an ethical as well as a contractual obligation to provide care that is safe, effective, high quality, and efficient,” says Gail Horvath, MSN, BS, RN, CNOR, CRCST, patient safety analyst at ECRI Institute PSO.

One indicator of an organization’s commitment to quality of care and safety is patient safety organization (PSO) participation. While reporting to a PSO is not mandatory, the time is coming when elements of participating in a PSO will be required. Namely, by 2015, the Affordable Care Act stipulates that hospitals with 50 or more beds can only participate in a Health Insurance Marketplace (i.e., a health insurance exchange) if the hospital has established a patient safety evaluation system (PSES) and participates in a PSO.

“By actively participating in a PSO, healthcare providers have the benefit of learning not only from their own experiences but from the experiences of hundreds of other providers in a collaboration that transcends business competition to provide... optimal care to the populations they serve and improve healthcare on a global level,” Horvath says.

A PSO can offer valuable support to a healthcare organization, be it through a review of reported events or through trend and data analysis. As Kamarra Fauese, Associate Decision Support Analyst from Alaska Native Medical Center, a member of ECRI Institute PSO says, PSO participation “decreases the time our staff spends researching process improvements and allows them to get back to taking care of patients.”

A PSO should “provide help or tools that can be spread throughout the organization,” says ECRI Institute’s Kathy Connolly, RN, MEd, CPHRM. For example, ECRI Institute PSO offers not only secure reporting and analysis, but also members-only publications, webinars, toolkits, assessments, individual support, and more. “Members willingly share in a secure forum where information is protected and others can learn from near misses and events,” explains Connolly.

ECRI Institute PSO is one of the most well-established and largest PSOs in existence today. We were officially listed as a PSO in 2008, one of the first 10 PSOs to be so designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005. ECRI Institute PSO offers support to other PSOs, too.

Between those who have joined ECRI Institute PSO directly and those who participate in our partner PSOs, we facilitate sharing and learning among nearly 1000 providers.

In addition, since our parent ECRI Institute is an HHS-approved Evidence-based Practice Center and provides numerous safety and quality programs—such as health technology assessment and evaluation, accident investigation, and consultation—its expertise benefits our PSO members when it comes to trend analysis, specific member requests, and expert event review, as well. ECRI Institute is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to improve the safety, quality and cost-effectiveness of care.

Contact us at pso@ecri.org or call (610) 825-6000, ext. 5558, and let us demonstrate how we can help you.