

# Overview of AHRQ's Patient Safety Priorities and Programs

**Caren Ginsberg, Ph.D.**

Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety  
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

# AHRQ's Core Competencies



AHRQ is a research and science-based agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that supports evidence-based practices, and develops tools to measure progress and improve care.

- **Health Systems Research:** Invest in research and evidence to make health care safer and improve quality.
- **Practice Improvement:** Create tools for health care professionals to improve care for their patients.
- **Data & Analytics:** Generate measures and data to track and improve performance, and evaluate progress of the US health care system.

# AHRQ Patient Safety Priorities



- Focus on areas of greatest impact
- Extend patient safety improvement to all settings
- Prevent HAIs, reduce antibiotic resistance
- Build capacity in the health care system to accelerate safety improvements
- Improve communication and engagement between clinicians and patients
- Make the safe thing the easy thing to do

# AHRQ's SOPS Program



- Initiated and funded by AHRQ since 2001
- Develops survey measures that are validated and use best methods for development and testing
- Advances the understanding, measurement, and improvement of patient safety culture within healthcare settings
- Conducts research to further...
  - ▶ the measurement and understanding of patient safety culture
  - ▶ the collection of data and informative reporting of patient safety culture data
  - ▶ patient safety improvement involving SOPS

# National Steering Committee on Patient Safety



- Convened by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)
- Will serve as a central body to galvanize stakeholders and act as a focal point to prioritize patient safety efforts
- Main goal is to create a National Action Plan for patient safety
  - ▶ Focused on foundational factors that can be considered ‘pre-requisites’ for patient safety, for example, leadership and culture
  - ▶ National Action Plan dissemination in late spring
- AHRQ’s SOPS Program and surveys align with these efforts

# Activities for 2020

- Data Submission:
  - ▶ HSOPS 2.0 and HSOPS 1.0
    - Last year for HSOPS 1.0; see SOPS website for suggestions on how to transition to HSOPS 2.0
    - Can also submit HIT and Value and Efficiency Supplemental Item Sets
    - Data submission June 2020
  - ▶ NH SOPS
    - Data submission September 2020
    - Look for webcast on NH SOPS
- Item Development:
  - ▶ Diagnostic safety supplemental items for Medical Office SOPS