

Overview of AHRQ's Patient Safety Priorities and Programs

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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



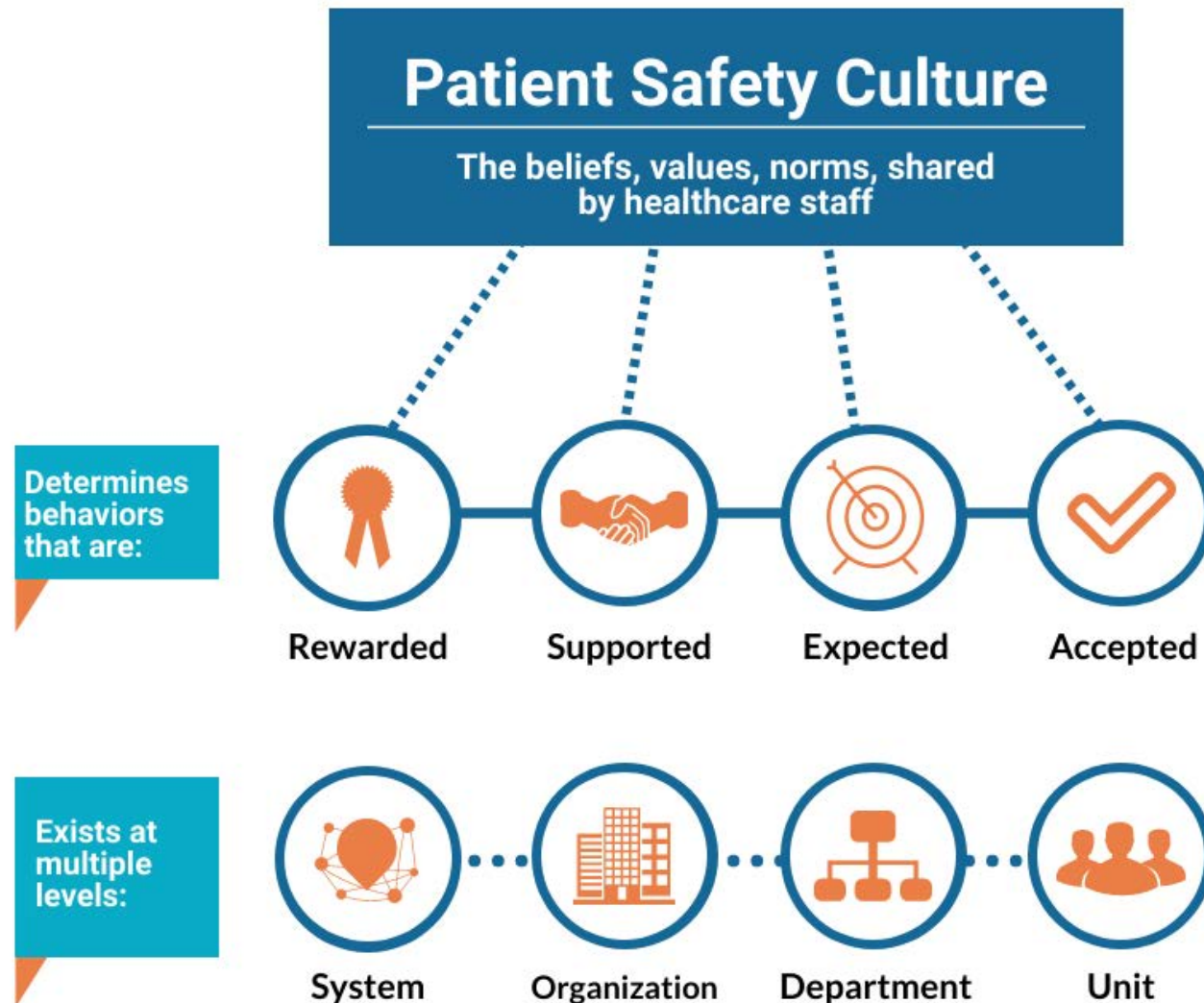
- Focus on areas of greatest impact
- Extend patient safety improvement to all settings
- Prevent HAIs, reduce antibiotic resistance
- Build capacity in the health care system to accelerate safety improvements
- Improve communication and engagement between clinicians and patients
- Make the safe thing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

What is Patient Safety Culture?



ASC SOPS Survey

Patient Safety Culture Composite Measures



27 items assess 8 composite measures

1. Communication About Patient Information
2. Communication Openness
3. Staffing, Work Pressure, and Pace
4. Teamwork
5. Staff Training
6. Organizational Learning—Continuous Improvement
7. Response to Mistakes
8. Management Support for Patient Safety

Near-Miss Documentation

Overall Rating on Patient Safety (Excellent to Poor)

Communication in the Procedure/Surgery Room