

AHRQ's Surveys on Patient Safety Culture™ (SOPS™) Program



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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



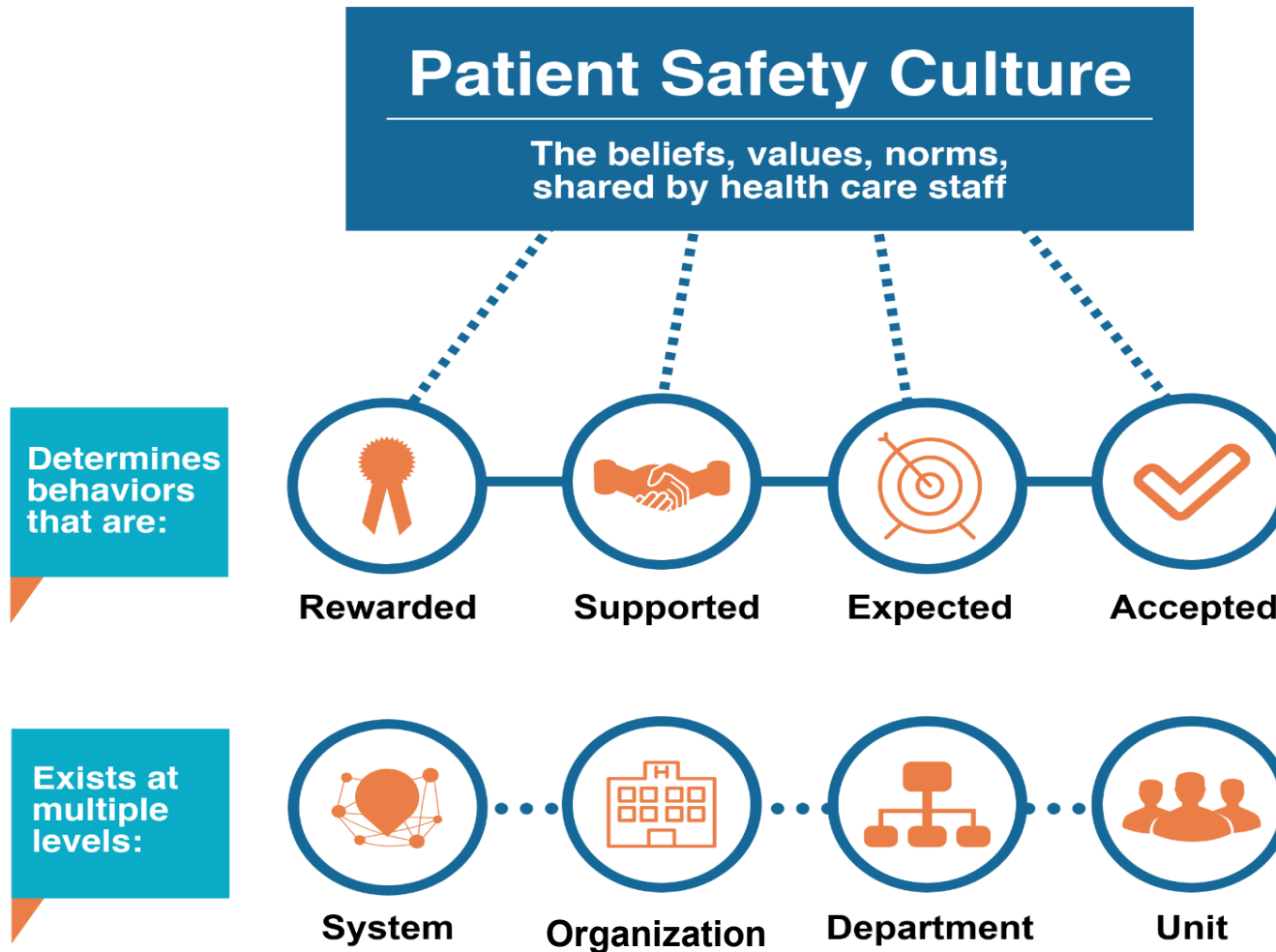
- Focus on areas of greatest impact
- Extend patient safety improvement to all settings
- Prevent HAIs, reduce antibiotic resistance
- Build capacity in the health care system to accelerate safety improvements
- Improve communication and engagement between clinicians and patients
- Make the safe thing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

Patient Safety Culture Defined



The 5 SOPS Surveys

- Surveys of providers and staff about the extent to which their organizational culture supports patient safety



Uses for SOPS surveys

- Raise staff awareness about patient safety
- Assess patient safety culture to identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Examine trends over time
- Evaluate the impact of patient safety initiatives

