

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



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# Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



- AHRQ is:
  - ▶ A research and science-based agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services that supports evidence-based practices.
  - ▶ The lead Federal agency charged with improving the safety and quality of America's healthcare system.
  
- AHRQ is not:
  - ▶ A regulatory agency. AHRQ can not require the use of our tools and products.

# AHRQ's Core Competencies



- **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 to advance the understanding, measurement, and improvement of patient safety culture within healthcare settings
- Develops validated surveys and measures that are validated
- Supports voluntary data submission to SOPS databases
- Conducts research to further the measurement and understanding of patient safety culture
- Tools to improve patient safety culture in facilities

# What is Patient Safety Culture?

## Patient Safety Culture

The beliefs, values, norms,  
shared by health care staff

Determines  
behaviors  
that are:



Rewarded



Supported



Expected



Accepted

Exists at  
multiple  
levels:



System



Organization



Department



Unit

# Database Activities for 2023

