

**Pennsylvania hospitals have been leaders in health care quality and patient safety initiatives for decades.** Strong partnerships between hospital leaders, physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals, along with innovative thinking, have led to major improvements in health care delivery. In order to sustain this leadership position, Pennsylvania hospitals rely on a highly-skilled, well-educated workforce, adequate financial reimbursements, and a regulatory environment that allows for flexibility in the workplace.

## Pennsylvania “Firsts”



- Pennsylvania was the **first state** to create a patient safety organization, the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority.

Pennsylvania hospitals report serious events and near-miss information to the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority, which reports, analyzes, and makes recommendations on how to reduce risk and prevent medical errors.

- Pennsylvania was the **first state** to require the reporting of all health care-associated infections and to release the first hospital-specific health care-associated infection report.



Pennsylvania hospitals are currently reporting all health care-associated infections to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). **Pennsylvania is the only state providing comprehensive infection data to the CDC and relevant state agencies (the Department of Health, the Patient Safety Authority, and the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council) through NHSN.**

**In 2008, Pennsylvania continued its leadership role in preventing health care-associated infections by passing legislation** requiring hospitals, along with nursing homes and ambulatory surgery centers, to strengthen infection control and prevention plans. Hospitals must evaluate and implement electronic infection surveillance systems and implement programs for the proactive surveillance of multi-drug resistant organisms, such as MRSA.

- Pennsylvania was the **first state** to develop and implement a payment policy with the state’s Medical Assistance agency that would reduce payments to hospitals when a Medical Assistance patient experienced preventable serious adverse events.
- Pennsylvania was **one of the first states** to enact a law allowing commercial health insurers to establish payment policies for health care providers regarding preventable serious adverse events, and allow the Medical Assistance program to expand these policies to nursing homes and other health care practitioners.



# Hospital Quality & Patient Safety Initiatives in Pennsylvania

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## **Pennsylvania Hospitals Are Quality Leaders**

Pennsylvania hospitals, along with the state's Blue Cross & Blue Shield plans, developed the Pennsylvania Health Care Quality Alliance (PHCQA), which provides information on publicly available measures through its website. Pennsylvania is one of several states that reports on appropriateness of care measures that are not currently reported by CMS through *Hospital Compare*.

**Pennsylvania hospitals continue to participate in a host of statewide and regional quality improvement initiatives.**

- Pennsylvania hospitals participated extensively in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) multiple campaigns aimed at reducing patient harm and death from medical errors.
- **Pennsylvania was selected to participate in the AHRQ national quality improvement program.**
- The Hospital Leadership and Quality Assessment Tool (HLQAT) allows hospital leaders to identify gaps in structures and processes associated with high performance on clinical quality measures. **HAP and Pennsylvania hospitals were instrumental in the research and development of the tool.**



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- **HAP is working with the AHA's Center for Healthcare Governance to pilot the center's quality curriculum for hospital leaders and boards.**
- **Pennsylvania health care facilities have been actively involved in the reduction of pressure ulcers since the spring of 2008.**
- **Pennsylvania hospitals are participating in two national quality improvement projects around central line infections and urinary tract infections.**

