

Effecting Positive Change in Patient Safety: Protecting Patients from Harm



The *American Nurses Association* has been working as a strategic partner with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) in the *Saving 100,000 Lives Campaign*, which aims to educate nurses and others on ways to enhance patient safety in the hospital setting. That partnership continues with the advent of the *5 Million Lives Campaign* which will dramatically reduce incidents of medical harm in US hospitals as initiated today/December 12, 2006.

The Campaign was announced by IHI President and CEO Donald Berwick, MD, MPP, speaking before thousands of health care professionals attending the organization's 18th National Forum, held in Orlando. The new Campaign builds upon the success of the *100,000 Lives Campaign*, in which 3,100 participating hospitals reduced inpatient deaths by an estimated 122,342 in 18 months through overall improvement in care, including improvement associated with six interventions recommended by the initiative.

In addition to ANA, joining Dr. Berwick at his announcement were leaders of America's Blue Cross and Blue Shield health plans, the American Hospital Association (AHA) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), each pledging that their organization will act as national champions and clinical advisors for the critical work ahead. Also present on stage was Sorrel King, a patient safety activist whose daughter died from a medical error in 2001.

The *5 Million Lives Campaign* will promote the adoption of 12 improvements in care that can save lives and reduce patient injuries, and it aims to enroll even more hospitals than participated in the previous Campaign. In announcing the next phase of the campaign, Berwick, stated: "in the *100,000 Lives Campaign* nurses – their leadership, their knowledge, their courage – were over and over again at the root of success." Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR, President of the American Nurses Association responded to Don's question: "What would the goal of reducing of injuries by 5 million mean to America's nurses?" by noting: "engaging in the campaign to reduce injuries provides a unique opportunity for nurses to make an impact in effecting positive change in patient safety at over 3,000 hospitals across the nation. Nurses are advocates for patient safety and the next phase of the campaign will continue to provide them with the opportunity to put evidence-based practice into action that will achieve positive results in today's complex healthcare system."

Patton went on to say: "As an OR nurse, I am personally gratified to see the embracing of SCIP as a component of this phase of the campaign. The teamwork called for in SCIP is critical and America's nurses stand ready to work collaboratively with physicians and others to reduce surgical complications."

When clinicians work together, great things are accomplished. ANA developed educational materials to help nurses get involved. The *Effecting Positive Change in Patient Safety Toolkit* which is posted at www.nursingworld.org/patientsafety/IHI2006Toolkit.pdf as revised to reflect the newly released interventions of the *5 Million Lives* campaign.

Additional information about the *5 Million Lives Campaign* can be found at www.IHI.org.