

Chat with Pat

An expert view on issues that matter to you.



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IHI's Safer Together: A National Action Plan to Advance Patient Safety and HD Nursing Alignment

As committed professionals to advancing fall and fall injury prevention programs, we dedicate our care to [improving patient safety](#) through mitigation and elimination of fall risk factors and injuries. I write to share that the Institute for Healthcare Improvement just published their *Safer Together: National Action Plan to Advance Patient Safety*, September, 2020. Twenty-seven national organizations collaborated as a National Steering Committee to develop this action plan because the preventable harm for both patients and the workforce continues to show “unacceptably high rates of preventable harm”¹ (p. 4).

IHI remains bold, visionary and hopeful in their leadership to convene national leaders to drive patient safety progress within hospitals and across the continuum of care. They affirm that we must all commit to “create the safest health care possible. HD Nursing shares this commitment and leads above other fall prevention programs with a core commitment to individualized care planning to mitigate and eliminate risk factors of falls.

IHI outlines four foundational and interdependent areas for safety that align with HD Nursing’s program model. These four action plan areas are:

1. Culture, Leadership, and Governance
2. Patient and Family Engagement
3. Workplace Safety
4. Learning System

For the purpose of this article, I will align HD Nursing’s Fall Prevention Program with the first area to affirm HD Nursing’s leadership:

Culture, Leadership, and Governance Recommendations:

[Ensure safety is a demonstrated core value.](#)

As HD Nursing engages a healthcare organization, the organization must affirm that protecting patients from preventable falls is a core value of leadership and governance.

[Assess capabilities and commit resources to advance safety.](#)

Upon HD Nursing contractual agreement, HD Nursing completes a comprehensive baseline assessment of each organization’s infrastructure and capacity at the organization, unit, and program levels.

[Widely share information about safety to promote transparency.](#)

Safety information is shared through quality improvement, intra and inter- program benchmarking, progress toward structure, process and outcome goals.

[Implement competency-based governance and leadership.](#)

HD Nursing’s evidence-based educational program has competence-based criteria for program launch, oversight and sustainment, integral to its program evaluation system.

I invite you and your team to examine the other recommendations in each area to advance your patient and workplace safety programs, as they are inter-related, such as infection rates, safe patient and handling injuries, and fall rates. To assist you with your patient safety efforts in concert with HD Nursing’s program support, IHI’s national action plan includes a self-assessment tool and a resource guide, all available [here](#)

I hope this information is helpful to you as we work together to advance our patient safety preventions.

