SPS Network: Together, Saving Lives & Reducing Harm

2015 Year in Review

The Children’s Hospitals’ Solutions for Patient Safety (SPS) Network is an unparalleled, collaborative effort among children’s hospitals working to transform pediatric patient safety in pursuit of an urgent mission: to eliminate serious harm across all children’s hospitals.

The network has grown from 8 hospitals in Ohio in 2011 to 90+ hospitals nationwide (plus Canada) in 2015.

The SPS Network is funded in part by the Cardinal Health Foundation, Children’s Hospital Association, federal Partnership for Patients Program, and the network’s hospitals.

Leaders from the 90+ children’s hospitals have committed to the following 2015-2016 goals:
- 40 percent reduction in hospital-acquired conditions (HACs)
- 10 percent reduction in readmissions
- 25 percent reduction in serious safety events (SSEs)

Employing high-reliability concepts and quality improvement science methods, the SPS Network is focused on reducing harm by preventing readmissions, serious safety events, and 11 pediatric HACs, including:
- Adverse drug events (ADE)
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)
- Central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI)
- Injuries from falls and immobility
- Obstetrical adverse events (OBAE)
- Pressure ulcers (PU)
- Unplanned extubations (UE)
- Surgical site infections (SSI)
- Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP)
- Venous thromboembolism (VTE)
- Peripheral intravenous infiltration and extravasations (PIVIEs)

The SPS Network has had tremendous success in reducing harm through November, 2015—having reduced 3 pediatric HACS by 40% or more since 2012.

“Children’s hospitals are a shelter and support for children and their families at a time of great need. Our obligation to keep them safe while they are in our care is absolutely paramount as part of our larger effort to make the world a better place for every child.” — Dr. Anne Lyren, SPS Co-Clinical Director
Progress to Date

In pursuit of its goals, the SPS Network has built a robust data collection and analysis infrastructure; has created evidence-based pediatric bundles, offers frequent opportunities to share and learn from high-performing hospitals; and engages a strong CEO leadership group to remove barriers to success and advise on strategic direction. The SPS Network has achieved the following:

Competing on safety has become a non-issue for network hospitals
In less than five years, 90+ children’s hospitals from across the US and Canada have joined together to share successes and failures transparently and have agreed not to compete with each other on patient safety—ushering in a new era in pediatric patient safety that will accelerate the pace of improvement and save more children’s lives.

Hospital senior leaders are engaged
Executive leadership is a critical aspect of successful improvement in pediatric patient safety. SPS offers numerous opportunities for CEOs to come together to learn from one another and develop their safety leadership skills. Over 425 leaders attended the October 2015 SPS National Learning Session for leaders.

The network is partnering with patients and families to help eliminate serious harm
The SPS Network recognizes the critical role that patients and families play in safety and incorporates the patients and their families into the network learning sessions.

Hospitals are continuing the culture transformation journey
Network hospitals employ the cultural transformation strategies of other high-reliability industries to significantly reduce harm—measured by serious safety events (SSEs). The network has begun incorporating in the culture strategies with the pediatric HAC prevention work. This emphasis on creating a culture of safety within pediatric institutions is a unique aspect of SPS’s approach.

The network is moving toward greater transparency
In the true spirit of transparency, the SPS Network’s pediatric HAC and readmissions results are now publicly available on the network’s website.

Hospitals are adopting evidence-based pediatric HAC bundles
SPS Network hospitals are working together to adopt the SPS Prevention Bundles for each Aviator Pediatric HAC, which are available publically on the SPS Website.

The network offers a vast array of learning opportunities
In 2015, the network offered targeted All Teach/All Learn opportunities in addition to the network-wide learning opportunities. From the start, SPS has offered numerous learning opportunities, which have included over 350 webinars and six annual learning sessions, engaging up to 425 participants from throughout the network at each session.

The network expanded internationally
SPS expanded internationally with one member hospital being from Canada.
Looking Forward

With over four years of learnings to guide SPS work, the SPS Network is building on the network’s approach in pediatric HAC harm reduction and culture transformation to continue the urgent pace of results achieved to date and keep even more kids safe from harm.

In 2016, the network will continue to add children’s hospitals; expand the learning opportunities to include a 2016 Employee/Staff Safety Summit and regional meetings throughout the US; further the culture work with an increased focus on patient and family engagement, employee/staff safety, and family disclosure; and continue to pursue the SPS mission through partnerships with hospitals, families, communities, corporate partners and more.

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