

International Children's Hospitals' Patient Safety Effort That is Saving Lives is Expanding Efforts to Employee/Staff Safety

June 14, 2016 - A collaborative patient safety effort of 100+ children's hospitals across North America that has already made substantial strides in reducing harm to patients is expanding the scope of its work to incorporate employee/staff safety.

Over the past three years, the [Children's Hospitals' Solutions for Patient Safety \(SPS\)](#) Network's efforts have saved 5,897 children from serious harm and led to an estimated savings of more than \$109 million, with consistent progress toward the goal of eliminating serious harm. The hospitals in the network share information and data regularly to learn best practices that are then spread across the network and shared publicly, along with results, on the network's [website](#).

"Almost daily we see reports of safety problems at hospitals across the country. These range from medical errors and hospital-acquired conditions harming patients to hospital staff with high injury rates while caring for patients. And every hospital in the country has a program to improve patient safety," said Marcy L. Doderer, FACHE, President & CEO, Arkansas Children's Hospital and Vice Chair, SPS. "What makes this effort truly unique – and transformational – is that the children's hospitals in the United States and Canada that are part of SPS have chosen a new way to improve safety. They have put aside competition to work together – sharing what works, what doesn't and keeping kids safe while in our care. Until SPS, an effort of this magnitude never existed. And it's working in a way that healthcare has never seen before."

SPS is now taking this effort one step further. In partnership with [Value Capture](#), which exists to support leaders who are committed to creating a new standard of performance and leadership for healthcare, SPS is embarking on the first-ever employee/staff safety effort of this magnitude.

"We believe SPS represents the most widespread, successful, and promising work with these values in American healthcare, and thus represents the biggest potential leverage point in helping to achieve our mission," said Bill O'Rourke, Senior Advisor, Value Capture. "We are excited to work with SPS to take its efforts to the next level by expanding its focus to employee safety – which will only improve the culture of safety at participating hospitals."

"Common sense suggests and strong research shows that worker safety goes hand-in-hand with patient safety. In fact, working toward zero harm for employees actually strengthens our ability to bring zero harm to patients," said Michael Fisher, president & CEO, [Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center](#) and Chair of SPS. "As members of SPS and as hospital and health system leaders, our obligation is to demonstrate through our actions that safety, both patient and employee, is our fundamental responsibility. Based on our results and momentum to date, we know that we get there faster – and better – by working together."

"When I see a hospital that is truly committed to safety across the board, I feel better about putting my child's care in their hands," said Beth Daley Ullem, President, Quality & Safety First; SPS Board of Directors Member; and parent advocate. "Ensuring the safety of employees is critical to me as a parent - I want to take my child to a hospital whose employees feel safe and happy in their jobs. I'm proud that the pediatric community is putting safety first."

[SPS](#) is a network of more than 100 children's hospitals from the United States and Canada. SPS is funded in part by the [federal Partnership for Patients program](#), Children's Hospital Association and the Cardinal Health Foundation.

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SPS MEDIA CONTACT: Angela Krile, 740-974-3948, angela@krilecommunications.com
VALUE CAPTURE MEDIA CONTACT: Melissa Moore, 412-553-1191, mmoore@valuecapturellc.com