

Pennsylvania Hospitals Do NOT Need to Join a PSO: Correcting Misinformation

To: Patient Safety Officers

From: Patient Safety Authority (PSA) Office

Date: July 15, 2019

Re: PA Hospitals Do NOT Need to Join a PSO: Correcting Misinformation

Misinformation is being circulated regarding the protections given to you under the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error Act of 2002, commonly known as MCARE. The Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System (PA-PSRS) continues to be a confidential repository for your event reports, and **we do not make referrals to the Pennsylvania Department of Health** based on those reports.

Please know that the information you report to the Patient Safety Authority remains safe and private; there is no less protection today than there was last week, last year, or when MCARE was written—and any representation to the contrary, by any source, is false. All work related to events, investigation of events, patient safety improvement efforts, etc. that is conducted in order for your patient safety committee to meet its responsibilities under MCARE is also protected. Additionally, any information shared with Patient Safety Authority staff remains protected. You can—and should—**continue to report incidents and serious events via the PA-PSRS portal at papsrs.pa.gov**.

In Pennsylvania, you are not required to enter into a paid agreement with a third-party patient safety organization (PSO), because you already report to the Patient Safety Authority. The Patient Safety Authority provides this added benefit for free to Pennsylvania hospitals. As always, you may continue to satisfy your hospital's patient safety obligations to contract with federally qualified health plans by obtaining a letter of participation from the Patient Safety Authority.

If anyone tells you that you need to join a PSO, please contact us at 717-346-0469 or patientsafetyauthority@pa.gov. Such misrepresentations are violative of Pennsylvania's long-standing culture dedicated to patient safety and will not be tolerated.

Thank you for all your efforts, which continue to make Pennsylvania the national leader in patient safety.

Regards,

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