THE FIRST ‘PATIENT SAFETY ORGANIZATION’ (PSO) FOR DENTISTRY

WE THINK WE KNOW THE PROBLEM
Heinrich’s law

1 – 30 – 300

For Every Major Injury, there are 30 Accidents that Cause Minor Injury, and 300 Accidents that Cause No Injury


- Cancer: 565k
- Heart disease: 611k
- Motor vehicles: 34k
- Suicide: 41k
- Firearms: 34k
- Medical error: 251k
- COPD: 140k

All causes: 2,597k

Based on our estimate, medical error is the 3rd most common cause of death in the US.
Dentistry is a “cottage” industry
Growing public vigilance

• Regulated at the state level
• “Dental” events often minor
• No credentialing, oversight or peer review
• Incidents / close calls / unsafe conditions exist

Anesthesia Incidents
Patient safety events

• Incidents
  – events that reach the patient, whether or not harm was done
• Near misses (close calls)
  – events that do not reach the patient
• Unsafe conditions
  – Circumstances that increase the probability of incident or near miss
Dentistry

• Complex Care- High Stress- High Stakes
• Unpredictable Outcomes
  – Requires Human Interaction on Both Ends – Doctor/Patient
• Harm Can Occur Even When We Have Done Everything We Were Supposed to Do
  – Standard of Care
• What Parts of the Equation are Controllable?

Low Frequency
High Impact Events
THE DEEP SLEEP

‘6000 Will Die or Suffer Brain Damage’

APRIL 22, 1982
What are the Barriers to Success in Dentistry?

- Concern about Exposure to Liability
- More Work for the Practitioner?
- Shame in Admitting Mistakes

What is a Patient Safety Organization (PSO)?

- Product of the U.S. Patient Safety Quality Improvement Act of 2005
  - Oversight by the Dept. of Health & Human Services
  - Management by the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)
- A PSO can collect information from adverse events involving patients
- Federal protection from legal discovery
Who is the DPSF?

- State of Illinois not-for-profit corporation
- Primary and only activity
  - Improve Patient Safety and the Quality of Dental Care in the U.S.
- Patient Safety Organization
  - Data protected under federal law from discovery
- Independent Organization in Dentistry

www.dentalpatientsafety.org
About the tool

**WHO CAN REPORT?**
ANY LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER
WHAT GETS REPORTED?

“PATIENT SAFETY EVENTS”

ALL DATA IS PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

Safety Reports Available on the Website
How can you help?

• Explore the Website
• Subscribe to Receive Monthly Reports
• Talk with Colleagues About DPSF
• Encourage Associations/Societies to Take Part
• Report Events!
• Consider A Donation

Contact Us
Thank you for your interest and support of the Dental Patient Safety Foundation. Your questions and comments are welcome and can be submitted anonymously.

GET IN TOUCH

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