



Maryland
Hospital Association

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Maryland's hospitals improving quality, patient safety

Elkridge, Md. — As health care providers nationwide work to bring attention to safety during National Patient Safety Awareness Week (March 13-19), a [new report](#) from the Maryland Hospital Association demonstrates the impact of hospitals' efforts to improve quality and patient safety for their patients. The report highlights the results of longstanding, statewide efforts to improve the quality of care, with a focus on reducing readmissions and hospital-acquired infections. Among the findings are that hospitals in 2015 have:

- Agreed (100 percent of acute care hospitals) to strict emergency department guidelines when prescribing opioids to help curb the state's epidemic of abuse
- Helped Maryland earn recognition by the March of Dimes as the first state in the nation to have 100 percent of its birthing hospitals reduce the rate of early elective deliveries to less than 5 percent for six consecutive months
- Committed to a national campaign designed to reduce and eliminate health disparities across racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups
- Launched kIDsafe, a statewide public awareness campaign to protect children from identity theft
- Reduced preventable infections and complications by more than 37 percent
- Reduced the readmissions rate faster than the rest of the nation
- Achieved a 94 percent compliance rate for hand hygiene best practices

"The safety of patients and communities is paramount for Maryland's hospitals," said Carmela Coyle, President & CEO of the Maryland Hospital Association. "This report highlights the data that show hospitals' efforts to provide quality care are paying off."

Maryland's hospitals rely on several partners in their efforts to improve quality: the Maryland Hospital Association, the Maryland Patient Safety Center, VHQC, and others.

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About the Maryland Hospital Association

The Maryland Hospital Association is the advocate for Maryland hospitals, health systems, and their patients before legislative and regulatory bodies. Its membership is composed of community and teaching hospitals, health systems, specialty hospitals, veterans' hospitals, and long-term care facilities. For more information, visit www.mhaonline.org.