



QUALITY OF LIFE, QUALITY OF CARE, AND PATIENT SAFETY

HOW TO TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION IN PATIENT SAFETY

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Since the Institute of Medicine's report "To Err is Human" was published two decades ago, increasing emphasis has been placed on improving quality and safety in healthcare. Principles from the airlines and other industries have been adapted and adopted for medical care. An atmosphere that is non-judgmental is crucial. Transparency is vital. Support for the programs must occur at all levels of the institution especially from the top to optimize likelihood of success of the program.

Quality and safety concepts need to be introduced early in house staff training programs to be most effective. Special training along with role modeling of senior staff is crucial.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education articulates specific topics to be covered in each resident's curriculum. These topics include: practice-based learning and improvement, a culture of safety, education on patient safety, review of patient safety events, education in quality improvement, knowledge of quality metrics and engagement in quality improvement activities. Embracing quality and safety concepts for patients' benefit is a career-long incremental process that will remain vitally important.

