

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
June 20, 2013**

SUBJECT: Creation of a Florida Academic Healthcare Patient Safety Organization

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consideration for approval to apply to the Agency for Healthcare and Research Quality of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the creation of a Florida Academic Healthcare Patient Safety Organization

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005, Public Law 109-41, 42 U.S.C. chapter 6A, subchapter VII, part C; 42 C.F.R. Part 3.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 (PSQIA) authorizes the creation of Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs) to improve patient safety by promoting the sharing of information among healthcare provider organizations regarding events that trigger potential claims and patient dissatisfaction. To implement the Act, the Department of Health and Human Services issued the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement final rule, 42 C.F.R. Part 3 (Patient Safety Rule). Entities seeking to become listed with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) as a PSO must meet the statutory criteria in the Act and the regulatory requirements imposed in the Rule.

The primary activity of an entity seeking to be listed as a PSO must be to conduct activities to improve patient safety and health care quality. A PSO serves as an independent, external workforce that can collect, analyze and aggregate protected Patient Safety Work Product (PSWP) locally, regionally, or nationally to share insights into the underlying causes of patient safety events.

The Patient Safety Rule establishes a framework by which hospitals, physicians, and other health care providers may voluntarily report information to PSOs, on a privileged and confidential basis, for the aggregation and analysis of patient safety activities.

Because communications between health care providers and their PSOs are subject to the uniform federal protections available under the Act, a provider's relationship with a PSO is expected to remove significant barriers that can deter the participation of health care providers in patient safety and quality improvement initiatives.

The Patient Safety Rule permits many types of entities, public or private, to seek listing with the AHRQ as a PSO. Following discussions with representatives of the State University System's six Colleges of Medicine, on behalf of those universities, we are seeking the approval of the Board of Governors to authorize the creation of a non-profit corporation to be called the Florida Academic Healthcare Patient Safety Organization and to seek listing of that organization with the AHRQ as a PSO. The University of Florida J. H. Miller Health Center Self-Insurance Program, which administers the Board-authorized self insurance programs for five of the six universities, will administer the non-profit corporation and seek listing with the AHRQ. The University of Florida J. H. Miller Health Center Self-Insurance Program has detailed experience in this field as a founding member of the Academic Medical Center PSO. A Florida healthcare-focused PSO will position the State as a model for how providers from a variety of geographic regions, professional backgrounds, and experiences may learn from each other to improve patient care.

Representatives of all six Colleges of Medicine will serve on the PSO's board of directors, along with the Director of the University of Florida Self-Insurance Program and the Board of Governors' General Counsel. Once listed, the Florida Academic Healthcare Patient Safety Organization will perform all of the patient safety activities required under the Act and the Rule to improve patient safety and delivery of health care for all six participating universities.

Supporting Documentation Included: None

Facilitators/Presenters:

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