Foundation Registers as PSO

The ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation is now listed with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) as a Patient Safety Organization (PSO). Note that the official designation of an organization as a PSO is distinct from organizations who may otherwise be dedicated to patient safety. PSOs were authorized by The Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 (Patient Safety Act). The PSO concept is that additional patient safety information can be effectively collected from hospitals, with anonymity protected, and that this information can then be aggregated by the individual PSOs, and then by a central organization, to give a broader and more representative picture of patient safety incidents and issues. With respect to medical devices, you might note the parallel here between PSO reporting and FDA MDR reporting. Reporting events to a PSO does not replace reporting the same event to the FDA, when applicable. Similarly, being part of MedSun (https://www.medsun.net/about.html) is distinct from being a PSO participating hospital. And for those of you with state reporting, you still have to do that as well. The “Final Rule” for establishing PSOs was published on November 21, 2008. Students of government and political science will note the significance of the effective date, January 19, 2009.

Participation in PSOs by hospitals is voluntary. It therefore remains to be seen whether there will be large scale buy-in from the hospital community. The web home for PSOs is http://www.pso.ahrq.gov/index.html.

PSOs, including ours, will work under contract with individual hospitals or healthcare organizations. If your hospital is considering participating in the PSO process, please keep the AHTF-PSO in mind. Since the Foundation is devoted to the support and enhancement of clinical engineering and patient safety, any funds derived from PSO activities will be directly used for our programs and toward our collective goals.

Awards

Please remember the two awards administered by the Foundation. These are the Marvin Shepherd Patient Safety Award (co-administered by ACCE) and the Excellence in Clinical Engineering Leadership award. Further information on these prestigious awards can be found at the Foundation website: http://www.accefoundation.org/.

New Patient Safety Brochure

The latest patient safety brochure from the Foundation is “Fire Safety & Oxygen: A Patient Guide”. This brochure is available from our website as a free tri-foldable download in both English and Spanish. This brochure joins the previous one, “Can I bring my own medical device with me to the hospitals?” which is also available at the website. Limited numbers of printed copies are also available, as is co-branding of the brochure with prior permission.
Donations to the Foundation

Donations to the Foundation in support of its programs in clinical engineering are always welcome and encouraged. In addition to your personal support (and employer matching), donations to the Foundation can also be made “in honor/recognition of…” with the honoree receiving an announcement to this effect from the Foundation. Consider this professionally relevant means of recognizing your colleagues and others who support clinical engineering. All donations are tax deductible since the Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Mission Statement

It is a good idea to periodically review mission statements. The Foundations is:

Improving healthcare delivery by promoting the development and application of safe and effective healthcare technologies through the global advancement of clinical engineering research, education, practice and their related activities.

Your input on Foundation activities, and your participation in its projects, is always welcome.

William Hyman, ScD, PE                Wayne Morse MSBME CCE
Secretary                              President
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