

Within my hospital system, Advocate Aurora Health, a substantial value is placed on patient safety. The system sends a weekly email that reviews safety concerns, near misses, good catches, etc., that occur throughout our facilities. This is helpful, as it allows for transparency and learning among staff. We also have a specific program for the organization, 'Safety Zone,' that will enable us to report a wide variety of safety concerns, including staff, patient, and environmental concerns. They also highly value reporting patient and staff safety concerns and focus on process improvement rather than punishment or placing blame. In a healthcare setting, focusing on growth and improvement going forward, in regard to safety, is essential in promoting positive patient outcomes, staff retention, and a sense of trust between the employee, patient, and organization. The shift in the healthcare paradigm from volume-based to value-based has prioritized organizational and patient safety. This has also resulted in a strong academic focus on the topic, generating a lot of literature supporting the importance of safety for everyone in the healthcare setting. One study suggests that investing in patient safety and promoting a culture of safety within an organization is beneficial for improving the quality of care provided and protecting staff well-being (Lu et al., 2022). This can also be translated into other areas, such as staff retention, reduced readmission rates, a reduction in burnout, improved positive patient outcomes, etc.

The use of technological innovations to enhance patient safety has been present throughout the history of medicine, to one degree or another. One area of improvement I have identified within my health system is the need for EHR alerts specific to providers. When I worked on the floor as an ICU nurse, we often got 'best practice alerts' that notified us of possible patient concerns, such as sepsis, suicide risk, etc., based on data collected from the chart. Unfortunately, since transitioning into the role of a provider, our EHR does not provide these alerts. We rely on either catching the information ourselves or being notified of the alert from nursing. According to Astier et al. (2020), using technology in healthcare can increase safety and enhance outcomes by automating tasks, data analysis, and facilitating interprofessional collaboration. For example, clinical reminders, medication alerts, disease progression alerts, and the use of evidence-based clinical pathways can not only reduce the workload of staff but can decrease errors, increase safety, promote better patient outcomes, reduce variation in practice, intercept potential mistakes, and lessen the mental load of providers. Currently, the technology we have within our EHR is capable of supporting such an initiative. However, it needs to be developed,