University of Illinois Medical Center
The “Seven Pillars”: A Comprehensive Approach to Adverse Patient Events

Process and Systems
The University of Illinois Medical Center Comprehensive Approach to Adverse events has been applied to 4000 adverse events and unsafe conditions in FY10. An emphasis on reporting, root cause analysis, and improving systems has resulted in the following:

1. 38 Patient and Family Communication Consults
2. 3 Clear harm errors with full disclosure
3. 30 Process improvements

The number of adverse event reports continues to increase and facilitates immediate communication with patients, families, and care providers along with rapid of review of system
issues in an effort to reduce the incidence of harm to patients. Tracking communication of harm events with patients and provision of benevolent gestures has resulted in positive outcomes with regard to reduction of medical malpractice lawsuits and claims.

**Research-Grants and Publications**

Timothy McDonald and colleagues were awarded a $3,000,000 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to disseminate and evaluate the “Seven Pillars” program for responding to adverse patient incidents to nine Chicago-area hospitals including Resurrection, Vanguard, and Mount Sinai hospitals. This three year project was the top ranked grant in a very competitive field.

David Mayer and his colleagues were awarded $100,000 from the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation to disseminate the proven effective use of lipid rescue to treat local anesthetic toxicity.

Rachel Yudkowsky and colleagues were awarded a $100,000 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to evaluate the impact of a virtual reality simulator on Neurosurgery resident training and in-situ performance of ventriculostomy.

**Publications**

McDonald et al., Quality and Safety in Healthcare, 2010  
Jericho et al., Journal of Graduate Medical Education, 2010  
Gunderson et al., Teaching and Learning in Medicine, 2009  
Gallagher, McDonald et al., Chest, 2009

**Education**

A Patient Safety and Medical Liability workshop was funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and held in Telluride, Colorado. Students attended from throughout the country and were represented by schools of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Applied Health Science, Public Health, and Law.

**Business Development**

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) IPSE business plan continues to develop. Members most recently submitted for copyright and patent protection on an invention related to resident physician reporting of adverse events via iPhone or smartphone applications.