

March 11, 2024

Dear MPSC Members and Patient Safety Champions,

As we recognize national **Patient Safety Awareness Week, March 10-16, 2024**, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for the dedicated staff across Maryland's healthcare continuum who are working hard for the safety and well-being of patients. The Maryland Patient Safety Center's [Minogue Awards for Patient Safety Innovation](#) highlight just a few examples of the exceptional work happening close to home, and we look forward to showcasing these award-winning projects over the coming months so that we can all learn and grow together.

Patient Safety Awareness Week is a time to reflect on the importance of patient safety and to recognize the critical role that healthcare professionals play in safeguarding the lives of those in their care. It is a time to celebrate the progress that has been made in improving patient safety and to recommit ourselves to the ongoing work of creating a safer healthcare environment for all-- including patients, families and our workforce.

Real progress has been made in patient safety, but there is no doubt that more work must be done. As your local partner in patient safety, MPSC supports a collective effort to prioritize patient safety in all healthcare settings, and a safety culture that pervades entire organizations. Our [20<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland Patient Safety Conference](#), being held at the Baltimore Hilton on April 26<sup>th</sup>, will host experts from across the country presenting data and implementable solutions to inspire safe, high quality care delivery and positive patient outcomes-- underscoring that every member of the team has a role in patient safety.

The Maryland Patient Safety Center is also leading a joint effort to make providing care safer for our healthcare workforce. Because **healthcare workplace violence** is undeniably a patient safety problem, too, we are working with the State house to reduce the incidence of violence and aggression toward healthcare professionals. Furthermore, we continue to expand our *Caring for the Caregiver* peer support program to strengthen healthcare workers' wellbeing following stressful and traumatic events.

This week of recognition also serves as a reminder that patient safety is not just the responsibility of individual healthcare providers, but of the entire system of care. We are safer and stronger when care delivery is **intentionally designed** for safety, and **health equity** is embedded in all processes.

Please use Patient Safety Awareness week, not as a singular opportunity, but a springboard to reignite, recommit, and move the needle. MPSC supports hospitals and other healthcare organizations with courses, forums, and events to build capacity for patient safety and to share learnings focused on safety culture, teamwork, and best practices. Please take advantage of the current list and stay tuned for our innovative lineup on the horizon.

Together, we can continue to improve patient safety, and ensure that every patient receives the safe, high-quality care they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Peritt".

President and CEO