

Conducting Patient Safety Rounds with Staff

The following slide presentation provides some basic information about creating a Patient Safety Rounds program and conducting Patient Safety Rounds with staff in your institution. Although the model described in the presentation was developed for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) – a comprehensive cancer center that provides ambulatory oncology care to adults and children – its principles are applicable to other healthcare settings. When thinking about using this model, it is essential that you consider the unique needs and culture of your own institution. By assessing factors such as unit size, the variety of services you offer, patient acuity, and even the physical location of certain departments (such as the pharmacy department and infusion units), you will be more likely to develop a program that meets your organization’s needs.

Critical to the success of a Patient Safety Rounds program is the support and endorsement of clinical and administrative leadership. The strong commitment of senior executives helps make a Patient Safety Rounds program more visible and facilitates efforts to review and act on safety issues that are identified. At DFCI, summary findings from Patient Safety Rounds with staff and patients are ultimately reported to a board level quality committee. This committee views the reports as a way to listen to the “pulse” of front line patient care providers and has been very engaged in making recommendations for actions on safety issues.