

# Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs

## Boards Must Respond

The new patient safety initiative, **Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs** is a program of unprecedented proportions and requires significant improvements in patient safety from all hospitals. This cannot be done without meaningful involvement and oversight by the board and clinical leadership. In fact, in the CMS Implementation Center on “Preparing your Hospital for Success”, a key step is “**Get your board and leaders committed.** *Strong support and attention from leadership is essential to organization-wide improvement. Make sure that safety and quality is a priority for officers and board members...*”

(For more information about the Partnership for Patients, visit [www.HealthCare.gov/center/programs/partnership](http://www.HealthCare.gov/center/programs/partnership).)

At your next board or executive team meeting, ask some hard questions such as:

- What is the gap between our hospital’s current infection and readmission rates and what will be required under this initiative? How can we reduce our readmission rates by 20% by 2013?
- This program puts a significant percent of a hospital’s Medicare revenue at risk for safety. How much of a revenue hit will we take over the next 3 years if we don’t improve on our current levels and trajectories of infections, readmissions, and other forms of harm? What do we need to do to significantly and rapidly improve the safety of our patients?

When we look at organizations that are getting real, lasting results in safety we always see an informed, en-

gaged, and challenging governing board. Boards set the tone, allocate the resources, hold the organization accountable, and deeply influence the culture to create safe, reliable care in the hospital. If your board doesn’t know how to do this, your hospital is not going to get safer. If your hospital doesn’t get safer you will take major hits under the **Partnership for Patients** safety initiative. We want to help.

In response to this urgent national initiative, we are giving you free access to the recording of our hard-hitting January webinar “HealthCare is Still Unsafe: What Boards Must Know About Patient Safety.” To provide much more in-depth and necessary training for your board and leadership team, we’re also making our groundbreaking 12-program course, “The Summit Series: The Board’s Role in Quality and Patient Safety” available to you at a 25% discount. Lastly, we’ve dedicated a new blog to this initiative and we hope you’ll join us in the discussion. Go to our website at [www.ORBoardworks.com](http://www.ORBoardworks.com) to access these resources.

The government, employers, payers and the public are getting serious about demanding safety, and the time has come for healthcare leaders to respond.

Jim Reinertsen and Jamie Orlikoff



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### Idaho Hospital Association Members

**25% Discount on *The Summit Series*.** Use Coupon Code: TEAMIHA5100 during checkout either online or over the phone (expires 12/31/2011)

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