Building Capacity for Nurse Leadership in Effective Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Initiatives: Multi-Level, Local to Global Strategies

Cheryl Dennison Himmelfarb, Lori Paine, Melinda Sawyer, Kelly Gleason

Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality
Symposium Objectives

• Describe the beneficial outcomes of building capacity in patient safety and quality through in-person and online training methods.

• Align the appropriate healthcare professionals with the competencies and skills needed to participate in and lead effective patient safety improvement efforts.

• Appreciate the role of nursing leadership in ensuring safe, high quality health care.

• Describe the role and importance of interprofessional training in ensuring safe, high quality health care.
The Context

• Multiple forces drive an unprecedented rise in the need for competent nurse leaders.

• In parallel, there is increased scrutiny on factors contributing to patient safety.

• Despite massive financial expenditures, many healthcare systems fail to deliver reliable, safe and high quality healthcare.

• A platform to escalate focus on patient safety was established over a decade ago.

• Achieving high quality over time and across healthcare settings remains elusive.
Building Capacity: Part of the Solution

- In addition to promoting effective, high functioning teams, there is a great need to build nursing capacity to lead these teams at unit-, department-, and institutional-levels to improve patient safety and quality outcomes.
Our Efforts at Johns Hopkins

- Four distinct programs designed to increase patient safety and quality improvement capacity that are delivered through in-person and online approaches
  - Target local and global audiences of nurses, other health professionals and consumers
  - Interprofessional training programs to build nursing capacity to lead patient safety and quality improvement efforts
  - These programs have been demonstrated to be effective in improving relevant measures such as systems thinking, quality improvement knowledge and competence in patient safety.