

# 91 A Novel Approach to Quality Improvement and Safety – Resident Patient Safety Committee

*Finnie JL, Husain A, Weizberg M/Staten Island University Hospital, Staten Island, NY*

**Introduction/Background:** The New Accreditation System mandates resident participation in quality improvement and patient safety programs. Incorporating this new requirement can pose a challenge for emergency medicine (EM) residencies. Achieving the educational goals of residencies and facilitating active, engaging, and self-reflective learning methods can be challenging.

**Educational Objectives:** Residents were encouraged to develop creative solutions to our education and accreditation requirement and subsequently formed the Resident Patient Safety Committee (RPSC). The curricular objectives were to engage residents, facilitate learning to work with multiple stakeholders, and oversee projects to improve patient safety. This design allows residents to direct their own learning and simultaneously improve safety for our patients.

**Curricular Design:** The committee consists entirely of residents and is chaired by a PGY3 resident. The agenda for the committee is determined by the residents. The committee chair reports findings and recommendations to the residency director. Residents first identified a working problem list, and then organized these into short and long term goals. Short-term goals included improving lab delivery, particularly for blood cultures, while long-term goals focused on improving communication between staff and decreasing electronic medical record (EMR) errors.

**Impact/Effectiveness:** Residents identified a major problem with blood culture delivery. They worked with lab and clerical supervisors to decrease the incidence of lost blood cultures. Since implementation of these changes, the lab reports a significant decrease in lost blood cultures. Other projects currently in progress include improvements in staff communication and improvements to the EMR to decrease medical errors, such as a confirmation screen and photo for critical medications. The implementation of a RPSC was a successful method to comply with the new requirements.