

LUPF PATIENT SAFETY CONTRACT

As physicians we are committed to, not only the health and well being of our patients, but also to their safety. Most incidents resulting in harm can be traced to complex system factors often combined with inadvertent actions by health care providers.

The most important way to reduce the risk of injury in these situations is for everyone to become active advocates for safety. That specifically means that when anybody in the system; patient, staff, nurse or physician, perceives an unsafe situation they must intervene so the incident can be averted.

To accomplish this end, it is imperative that there is a culture of continuous quality improvement attached to the issue of patient safety and that each and every physician become its champion. In such a culture, those who point out the unsafe situation are considered heroes and are so recognized. Their action should be seen as one of selfless dedication to the patient's safety and well-being. In such a culture, the person who intervenes to prevent injury to a patient should never fear retribution for that action.

Therefore, I pledge

- To be a total advocate for patient safety,
- To respect and honor those who intervene in the act of providing patient care when they honestly believe that the patient is at risk,
- To always respond to an honest inquiry or intervention in a positive and supportive manner and use every experience as both a learning and teaching opportunity
- To recognize that sometimes an observer can be mistaken, but it is better to be safe than sorry,
- To hold my colleagues to these same standards, and
- To teach these same behaviors to all residents and students with whom I interact.

In this way, I believe that I and every physician in LUPF can make the Loyola University Health System the safest environment possible for each and every one of our patients.

Signature

Date

Name Printed