Quality & Patient Safety

The Weill Cornell Medicine Department of Pediatrics is committed to improving the safety and quality of care services for the patients and communities we serve. Our guiding principles of quality and patient safety improvement include:

- leadership commitment
- staff-level empowerment and accountability to drive change
- multidisciplinary collaboration
- integration of trainees in organizational quality and safety initiatives
- initiative alignment with institutional goals
- structured methodology and data-driven approaches
- continuous integration of high-reliability principles
- patient- and family-centered framework

Our vision is to reduce or eliminate serious harm to our patients while we care for them at the Komansky Children’s Hospital.

Our mission is to apply scientific quality improvement methods and use concepts of high-reliability organizations while partnering with families and front-line staff to improve our outcomes.

Our Strategic Initiatives

Quality
Our quality efforts are grounded in the science of improvement, and complement our ongoing quality assurance efforts that ensure compliance with healthcare standards.

Safety
Safety is our core value, inclusive of both our patients and our employees, and factors in complex healthcare processes, the use of technology, and the handoff of information between multiple teams.

Learning Collaboratives
Learning networks are very important in the field of pediatrics due to the major limitations posed by having a small number of patients at one site. Learning networks are multi-site, practice-based clinical networks that use data for research and improvement. By nature, they are multidisciplinary and involve engaged patients, families, clinicians and scientists working on measurable outcomes.

**National Networks**

**Children’s Hospitals’ Solutions for Patient Safety Network**

The Children’s Hospitals’ Solutions for Patient Safety (SPS) Network is a 110+ site network of children’s hospitals in North America, caring for 50 percent of all children hospitalized in the U.S., with the goal of eliminating serious harm throughout all children’s hospitals. Between 2012 and September 2016, SPS efforts saved 6,944 children from serious harm, and have led to an estimated savings of more than $130 million in healthcare costs. The SPS Network has had tremendous success reducing harm through January 2017 across the following categories:

- falls: 81%
- ADE: 64%
- CAUTI: 62%
- SSI: 31%
- PI: 26%
- CLABSI: 13% (2012-2014)
- readmissions: 7%
- VTE events: 5%

**ImproveCareNow**

ImproveCareNow (ICN), a network focused on pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), aims to transform healthcare and costs for all children and adolescents with Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis, by building a sustainable, collaborative chronic care network. ImproveCareNow enables patients, families, clinicians and researchers to work together in a learning healthcare system to accelerate innovation, discovery and the application of new knowledge. ImproveCareNow had six centers in its pilot network in 2007; today, ICN has 95 care centers around the country working together toward a mission to have all children and youth with Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis cared for at an ImproveCareNow center, where 80 percent of patients are in clinical remission (feeling well and fully active), 90 percent have satisfactory nutrition, 93 percent have satisfactory growth and 94 percent are not taking steroids. Since 2007, remission rates have risen from 55 to 81 percent, without new medications.