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**IHI'S PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK, MARCH 10–16,
FOCUSES ON OUTPATIENT SAFETY**

*Tune in to a weeklong discussion on change ideas and the importance of
improving safety in outpatient settings*

Boston, MA — February 27, 2019 — The [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#) (IHI) will highlight ambulatory safety during this year's [Patient Safety Awareness Week](#), March 10–16, 2019. Even as hospitals continue efforts to lower infection rates and medication errors in acute care settings, there's still plenty of work to do to make outpatient settings safer, starting with identifying the risks for patients, such as diagnostic errors, lost test results, and medication safety. Best practices to address these issues and more are emerging but not nearly at the pace or comprehensiveness needed.

“There is a growing appreciation in health care and among the general public that most health care — including surgical and diagnostic procedures and increasingly complex care — takes place in outpatient settings, not in hospitals,” said **Tejal K. Gandhi, MD, MPH, CPPS**, Chief Clinical and Safety Officer at IHI. “As health systems continue to consolidate and bring outpatient and inpatient care closer together, under one entity, there needs to be one reliable system that ensures safety for patients and staff alike, across the care continuum.

This year's Patient Safety Awareness Week aims to point the way forward. On Wednesday, **March 13**, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM Eastern Time, IHI is hosting a complimentary webcast, [Advancing Patient Safety Beyond the Hospital](#). In addition to Gandhi, speakers will include **Jeffrey Brady, MD, MPH**, Director, Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and **Lisa Schilling, RN, MPH, CPHQ**, Vice President for Quality, Safety, and Clinical Effectiveness, Stanford Health Care. They will address the current state of safety in ambulatory settings, describe interventions that can be adopted for use in ambulatory care, and summarize resources to help clinicians, patients, and families mitigate risks. The program is offered free of charge, but [registration is required](#).

On Thursday, **March 14**, from 12 Noon to 1:00 pm Eastern Time, IHI (@TheIHI) will be joined by the [Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine](#) (@ImproveDX) in co-hosting a [Twitter Chat](#) on the topic of diagnostic error. Diagnostic error is one of the chief concerns in ambulatory safety, [estimated to impact 1 in 20 adults](#) in US-based outpatient settings. All are invited to participate by using the event hashtag **#PSAW19**.

As Patient Safety Awareness Week approaches, IHI encourages those taking part to share their activities on social media and on the event website, [ihi.org/psaw](#), where they can take a pledge for patient safety, get ideas for engaging staff and patients, download free resources, order branded materials, or honor a loved one touched by medical harm.

About the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) is an independent not-for-profit organization based in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. For more than 25 years, IHI has used improvement science to advance and sustain better outcomes in health and health systems across the world. IHI brings awareness of safety and quality to millions, catalyzes learning and the systematic improvement of care, develops solutions to previously intractable challenges, and mobilizes health systems, communities, regions, and nations to reduce harm and deaths. IHI collaborates with a growing community to spark bold, inventive ways to improve the health of individuals and populations. IHI generates optimism, harvests fresh ideas, and supports anyone, anywhere who wants to profoundly change health and health care for the better. Learn more at [ihio.org](https://www.ihio.org).

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