As winter draws to a close, the team at the Maryland Patient Safety Center is excited to bring a year’s worth of planning and hard work to fruition on behalf of our members when we host the 9th Annual Maryland Patient Safety Conference on April 5, 2013 at the Baltimore Convention Center. We are confident this year’s event will be a crowd pleaser in terms of the diverse cross section of educational offerings and the meaningful theme of Walk the Talk: The Consequence of Everyone as a Leader.

We are proud to be welcoming former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and President of the Joint Commission, Mark R. Chassin, to Baltimore as our keynote speakers. Their commitment to the event has created a definite buzz in the healthcare and business communities in Maryland and will help further raise the profile of the event.

Response to the conference thus far has been outstanding, but it is not too late to be a part of it by registering as an attendee or to support the event as a sponsor. More details on the conference are included in this newsletter.

In addition to the buildup to the annual conference, we are forging ahead with a number of new initiatives in 2013 in response to the needs of our members and to keep us on the cutting edge of patient safety on a national level. Director of Operations, Bonnie DiPietro, offers more details in an insightful Q&A in this issue.

We are also excited to be rolling out our new “Get Centered” campaign, aimed at providing tangible reminders to our members and employees of our member institutions about the vital importance of staying focused on patient safety at all times. The initiative will also help raise awareness of the Maryland Patient Safety Center, including our mission and the practical resources we provide to build a safer health care system.

Look for more details at the conference in April. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Robert Imhoff
President & CEO

The Countdown is on...
to the 9th Annual Maryland Patient Safety Conference
Registration Closes March 22, 2013

9th Annual Maryland Patient Safety Conference - Friday, April 5, 2013
WALK THE TALK:
The Consequence of Everyone as a Leader

“America’s Mayor,” Rudy Giuliani, and President of the Joint Commission, Dr. Mark R. Chassin, to Headline Maryland Patient Safety Conference

Health care industry leaders from throughout the region are set to converge on Baltimore on April 5, 2013 for one of the most anticipated patient safety events in years.

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani will serve as opening keynote speaker and President of the Joint Commission, Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH will offer the closing keynote address. In addition to the addresses by these high profile leaders, the 9th Annual Maryland Patient Safety Conference will feature a variety of presentations and panel discussions covering a wide variety of patient safety issues.

For full registration details and information on timing and topics covered, visit our newly designed website, www.marylandpatientsafety.org.
Update on Educational Initiatives and What’s Ahead in 2013

Director of Operations, Bonnie DiPietro, offers some exciting updates on our existing patient safety initiatives and provides a sneak peak about what lies ahead in 2013 in this Q&A.

Q: The center’s Hand Hygiene initiative has become an important and impactful program. What do members need to know about it?

Bonnie: The statewide initiative is aimed at the reduction of hand-associated infections in hospitals. Our goal is to achieve a better than 90 percent hand hygiene compliance rate among Maryland acute care hospitals.

Q: What is the current level of participation across the state?

Bonnie: A lot of work in the past year has focused on increasing the participation in the Hand Hygiene initiative by acute care facilities. We continue to have participation by 44 out of 46 acute care hospitals throughout the state. We have also been focusing on the data component—making sure that participants are reporting promptly and complying with the methodology. Currently, over 90% of the units that are reporting are reporting the required volume of data.

We feel that we have made significant strides with regard to the data and reaching a 90% compliance rate as we are now approaching at 83%.

In 2013, we are planning on expanding the initiative beyond hospitals and into other facilities to include long-term care and community health centers.

Q: What are the major barriers to compliance with hand washing?

Bonnie: First and foremost, our data shows that 83% of the time clinicians are engaging in hand hygiene practices. The remaining 15% or so is felt to be due to the competing demands of the clinician in that they are tending to many tasks so hand hygiene is unintentionally omitted.

Q: What recent advancements have been made to the SAFE from FALLS initiative?

Bonnie: We have done a lot of work this year on increasing the participation in the hospitals but also participation in long-term care facilities. We count 44 long-term care facilities that are participating in the collaborative and 15 home health agencies. We have seen a decrease in the number of falls with injury as a result of the efforts of this collaborative; however, the rates of falls have not changed significantly. While the rate in hospitals is at about 3 per thousand patient days, which is below the national rate of 4.6, we still see opportunity for improvement.

Q: What other things are you looking at to improve VTE outcomes?

Bonnie: We are working toward implementing prevention practices for patients identified to be at risk for a fall. Much research has been done to examine the reasons providers do not order the necessary tests. For example, people are often weak and might be at risk for a fall. Much research has been done looking at this.