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# Shifting Patient Safety into High Gear

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# Root Cause Analysis Information Exchange

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*What is an RCA?*

# RCA Overview

**Root Cause Analysis**—a structured approach to identify the underlying causes of adverse events and “near miss” events. The ultimate goal is to prevent future harm by eliminating these causative factors.

- Begin with event reconstruction through record review and interviews.
- Multidisciplinary teams analyze sequence of events to identify *how* and *why* the event occurred.
- Focus is primarily on systems and processes, not on individual performance.
- Action Plans with improvements are developed.
- Improvements must be implemented and their effectiveness monitored.

# RCA Information Exchange

## Benefits at the individual organizational level

- Aggregation and analysis at the local level
- Examine data before and after a specific initiative
- Manage Action Step completion
- Secure submission of RCA information, including attachments, to the AMC|PSO
- Compare organizational RCAIE to entire AMC|PSO database
- Produce compelling, actionable reports

# RCA Information Exchange

## Benefits across the AMC|PSO

- Comparative analysis—small “n” events, trend spotting
- Predictive modeling—identify emerging risks before they appear in malpractice data
- Measure Action Step impact
- Reporting capabilities

# RCA Information Exchange Development

## **Gathered experienced PS and RM leaders and standardized:**

- Event Types
- Contributing Factors
- Action Steps

## **Tool Design**

- Structured data fields
- Selected free text fields
- Reporting capabilities
- Iterative approach – v1 . . .

## **Balancing Act**

*RCA Information Exchange Tool  
Demonstration*