

Indiana State Department of Health  
Health Care Regulatory Services Commission  
Division of Acute Care  
Medical Error Reporting System

## **Program Overview**

On January 11, 2005, Governor Mitchell E. Daniels Jr. issued Executive Order 05-10 requiring the Indiana State Department of Health to develop and implement a medical error reporting system. The Executive Order cited successfully implemented medical error report systems for reducing the frequency of medical errors, revealing the causes of medical errors, and empowering healthcare professionals to design methods to prevent or discover errors before patients are harmed.

Prior to 2006, the Indiana State Department of Health did not collect medical error data. The Indiana State Department of Health initiated development of a medical error reporting system and adopted rules requiring hospitals, ambulatory outpatient surgical centers, abortion clinics, and birthing centers to report medical errors. The Indiana State Department of Health began collecting medical error data on January 1, 2006.

### **Purposes of the Medical Error Reporting System**

Purposes of reporting requirement:

- Increase awareness of the problem of medical errors
- Collect and analyze data on medical errors to determine whether there are areas where mistakes could be reduced
- Provide ability to analyze data to assist health care providers in reducing medical errors
- Provide information to patients so that they understand their role in helping to prevent errors
- Promote the sharing of successful solutions and improvements between health care providers
- Culture of open discussion. The goal is not to fix blame but to encourage reporting of errors so that initiatives may be developed to prevent mistakes
- Develop best practices aimed at reducing medical error
- Reduce health care costs through elimination of errors and duplication