

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC
COMMENTS:
DESIGNATION OF MARYLAND'S PATIENT SAFETY CENTER**

In 2001, the General Assembly adopted the Patients' Safety Act of 2001 (HB 1274, codified at Health-General §19-139), which required the Maryland Health Care Commission ("Commission") to study the feasibility of developing a system for reducing preventable adverse medical events and to issue both a preliminary and a final report with recommendations. The Commission's resulting report recommended, among other things, the creation of a State-designated Patient Safety Center for Maryland. To implement this recommendation, the Commission issued a Request for Proposals in 2003 for a no-cost contract with the State to select an organization to operate the patient safety center and to coordinate patient safety initiatives across the State during the first years of its existence. The successful bidder was a collaborative formed between the Delmarva Foundation and the Maryland Hospital Association. The contract, issued in January 2004, was for three years, with two one-year extensions. In 2007, the entity designated by the Commission as Maryland's Patient Safety Center incorporated itself as the Maryland Patient Safety Center, Inc. ("MPSC, Inc."), a not-for-profit Maryland corporation.

The Commission subsequently determined that it did not need an ongoing no-cost contractual relationship with the entity that it designates as the Maryland Patient Safety Center. Beginning in 2009, the Commission has entered two successive agreements with MPSC, Inc., to which it awarded re-designation as Maryland's Patient Safety Center. The current designation expires on April 29, 2020. The Commission remains responsible under Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations §1-401(b)(14) to designate an organization as the Maryland Patient Safety Center, in order for that organization to have statutory protections as a medical review committee while it "[e]valuates and seeks to improve the quality of health care provided by providers of health care" in Maryland.

By this public notice, the Commission requests written Expressions of Interest from each entity ("Interested Entity") that wishes to be considered for designation as the Maryland Patient Safety Center for a five-year period that will begin on April 30, 2020, or at a later date approved by the Commission. The Commission also requests public comments on the effectiveness of MPSC, Inc., the currently designated Maryland Patient Safety Center, in addressing patient safety issues and improving the quality of health care provided in Maryland.

An Expression of Interest must articulate that the Interested Entity has the experience, capabilities, and can develop implementable plans to meet the six program objectives listed below:

1. Assure that a majority of Maryland hospitals will actively participate each year in at least one major patient safety initiative if the Interested Entity is designated as the Maryland Patient Safety Center;

2. Develop initiatives that align with and support the priorities of the Maryland Total Cost of Care Model, as well as the priorities of the Maryland Department of Health (e.g., elimination of health disparities, implementation of the Diabetes Action Plan);
3. Facilitate collaboration among and have experience collaborating with a broad range of health care providers in diverse health care settings such as nursing homes, ambulatory surgery centers, hospitals, and others;
4. Identify funding sources to sustain a viable statewide patient safety center over the next five-year period, acknowledging that there is no future guaranteed funding for Maryland's designated Patient Safety Center;
5. Protect the confidentiality and security of protected health information; and
6. Achieve success in: (a) assisting health care providers to improve the quality of health care services; and, (b) evaluating the quality of health care provided.

Public comments should address the performance of MPSC, Inc., the current MHCC-designated Maryland Patient Safety Center, in the past five years. A person or organization that is not an employee, member, or otherwise related to an Interested Entity that will be submitting an Expression of Interest in response to this notice is welcome to submit comments that recommend other patient safety priorities that the commenter believes should be included in the upcoming agreement that the Commission will enter with the organization that it designates in 2020 as Maryland's Patient Safety Center.

All Expressions of Interest and public comments must be received on or before Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. at the Commission's offices. An Expression of Interest or public comment may be sent by email to Theresa Lee, Director, Center for Quality Measurement and Reporting, at theressa.lee@maryland.gov or by USPS or other delivery service to Ms. Lee at the Commission's offices, 4160 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215.

Commission staff will evaluate each Expression of Interest and consider all public comments that are timely received. Depending on the number and quality of Expressions of Interest that are timely filed, Commission staff may seek additional information from an Interested Entity or issue a Request for Proposals ("RFP") for designation as Maryland's Patient Safety Center. Based on Commission staff's evaluation and review of Expressions of Interest or responses to any RFP that may be issued, staff expects to recommend that the Commission designate an Interested Entity/Responder as the Maryland Patient Safety Center at the Commission's April 16, 2019, public meeting. If you have questions regarding this notice, please put them in writing emailed to Ms. Lee at theressa.lee@maryland.gov. Responses to any questions will be posted on the Commission's website at the same location as this notice so that each potential Interested Entity and commenter will have the same information.