



# Strategies for Patient Safety

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# Safety: Current State

- Two decades of initiatives on healthcare safety
- Significant National Patient Safety Improvement
  - In-hospital adverse events for healthcare related patient harm fell significantly in decade prior to onset of Covid-19 - Medication Events, Healthcare Associated Infection, Post Procedure
- 25% Patients with Harm – Office of Inspector General [Report](#) – May 9, 2022
- CMS and CDC outline significant worsening of patient safety during pandemic – New England Journal of Medicine [Article](#) - February 2022
  - 40% higher healthcare associated infections; Higher patient falls, pressure ulcers

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Healthcare has made significant improvements (especially pre-pandemic) but quality and safety SYSTEMS were not durable during times of significant stress, and gaps in care and infrastructure persist.

“Covid Decimated the Health Care System. We Need to Invest in Its Recovery.”

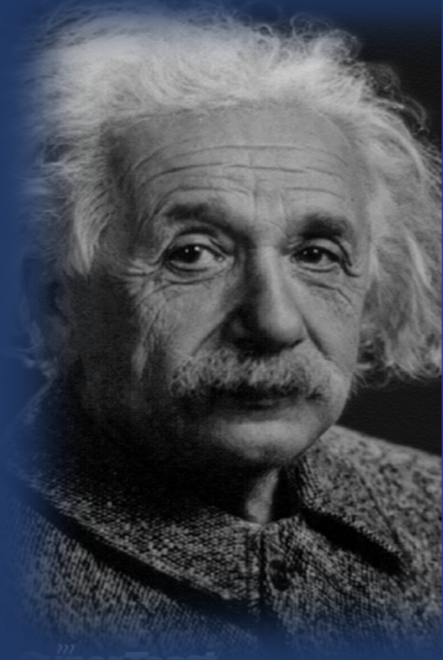
*Atul Gawande*

*New York Times March 16, 2023*



“If I were to tell you that more than 200 people were going to die today from a medical error, you could say, “That can't be,” but that's exactly what's happening. We're essentially losing an airplane full of Americans pretty much every day from medical errors, but we don't think about it. But is it still the third, fourth leading cause of death in America?”

# Lessons from COVID Influence Safety Strategy



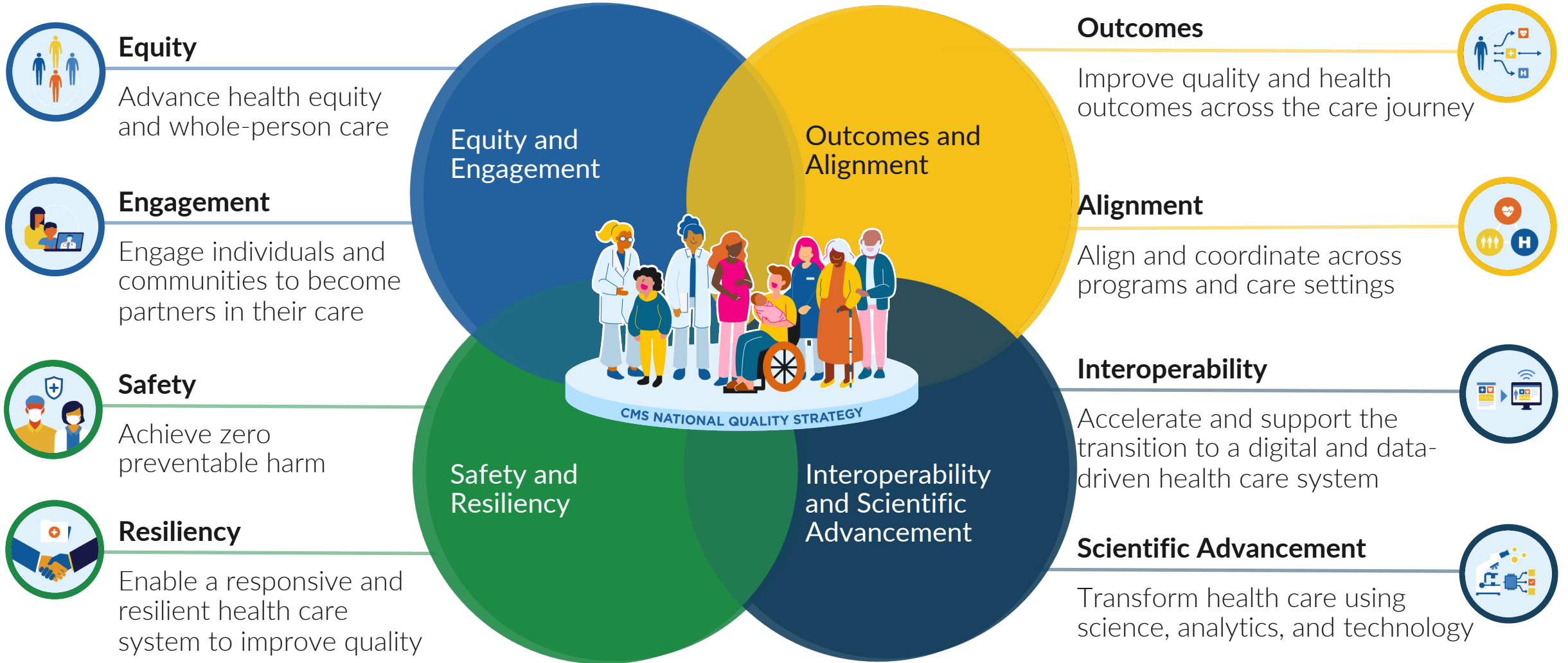
*The only mistake in  
life is a lesson not  
learned.*

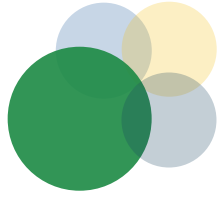
*Albert Einstein*

- Expansion of digital and telehealth capabilities
- Rapid Scientific Advances
- Expanded Collaboration
- Stark Equity Gap
- Nursing Home care issues
- Need for interoperable data
- Frailty of safety systems
- Resilience challenges - including workforce
- Struggling healthcare systems

# CMS National Quality Strategy Goals

The Eight Goals of the CMS National Quality Strategy are Organized into Four Priority Areas:





# Safety: Achieve Zero Preventable Harm



## OBJECTIVE

Improve performance on key patient safety metrics through the application of CMS levers such as quality measurement, payment, health and safety standards, and quality improvement support.

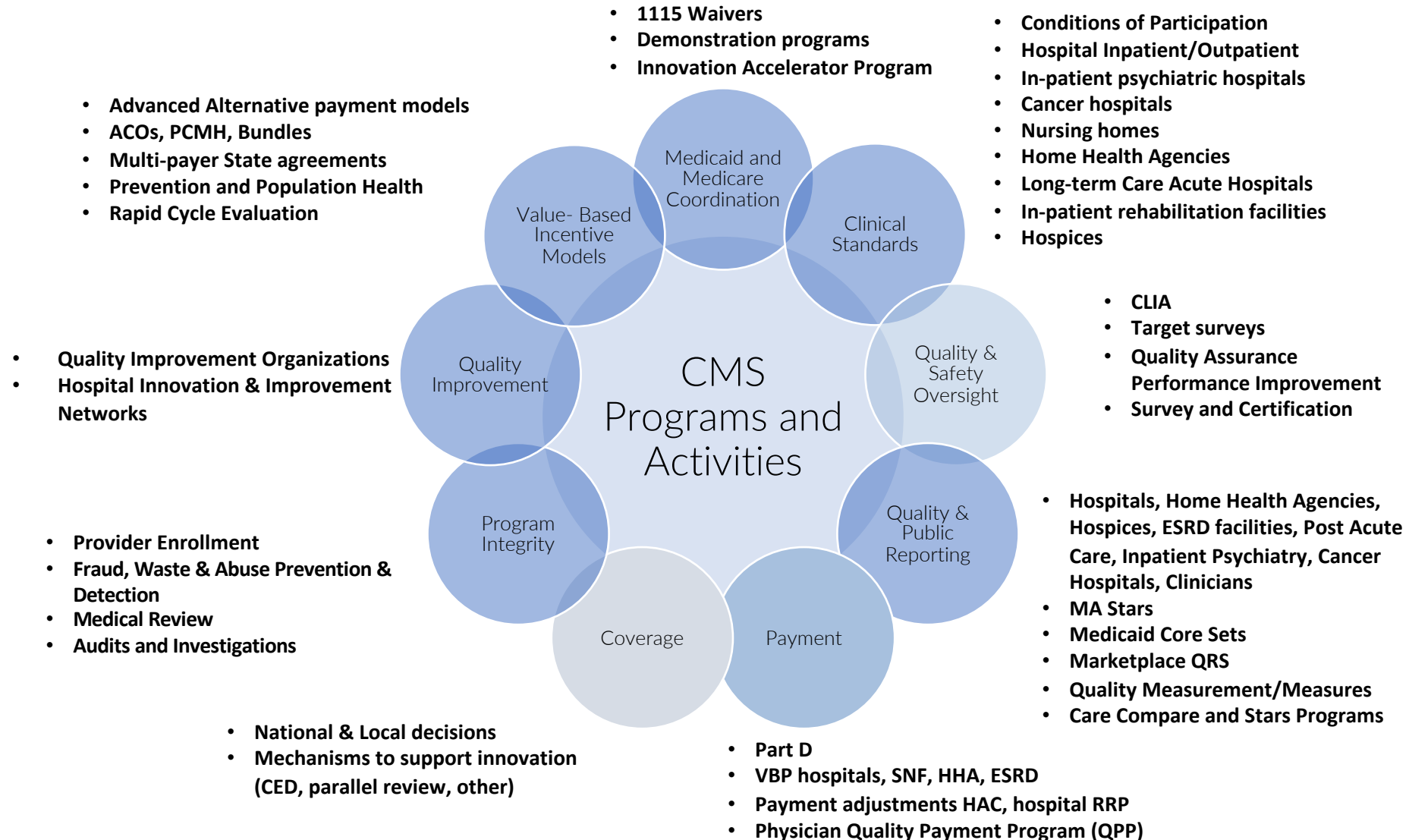
## SUCCESS TARGET

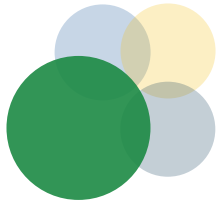
Improve safety metrics with a goal to return to pre-pandemic levels by 2025 and reduce harm by an additional 25% by 2030 through expanded safety metrics, targeted quality improvement, patient engagement, and Conditions of Participation.

## HIGHLIGHTED INITIAL ACTIONS

- ❖ Implement tracking to show progress towards reducing harm (e.g., healthcare-associated infections) to pre-pandemic levels and beyond.
- ❖ Expand the collection and use of safety indicator data across programs, including data on key areas such as maternal health, behavioral health, adverse events, and workforce issues.
- ❖ Align across HHS to implement actions from the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) to further enhance patient safety.

# CMS Quality Levers, Programs & Activities





# Safety Action Steps - Metrics



- New performance measures to support patient safety (OIG) - new eCQM to cover common safety events
- Maternal Safety - metrics and “Birthing Friendly” designation
- Nursing Home Safety – expanded VBP and safety focus
- Expanded VBP Programs - new areas of safety focus
  - Rural Health – Rural Emergency Hospitals
  - Opioid Safety – Electronic Prescribing; Mandatory Query of PDMP
  - Expanded Home Health Value Based Program (expanded CMMI Model)
- Developing structural safety measure (hospital)
- Measure stratification for equity

## Additional Safety Action Steps

- Working across CMS for integrated safety action steps
- Targeted Quality Improvement Network support – Specific focus on patient safety
- Focus on leadership and governance
- Support of Interoperability, TEFCA and FHIR - Transition to Digital Measurement as a safety issue (data completeness and availability)
- Public transparency and reporting
- Conditions of Participation and Survey



# Cross Agency Collaboration

AHRQ – CDC – CMS – FDA – ONC

- Leadership Action Alliance for Safety webinar series
- Safer Together: A National Action Plan to Advance Patient Safety (Institute for Healthcare Improvement)
- CDC expanded patient safety reporting through NRSN using digital tools
- Promoting Interoperability and Digital Data Collection thru Standard Data Elements
- Patient Safety Organization – use of AHRQ Network of Patient Safety Databases
- Assessment of safety of new devices and medications
- Alignment of Quality and Safety measures

# Future Considerations: System Approaches

- How to develop more standardization in healthcare
- Human factors engineering
- Learning from near misses and error
- Standardized definition of safety (including taxonomy of error reporting)
- Direct link of safety to productivity/finance
- Technology assistance

***Thank You!***