**NQF Safe Practice #1: Culture of Safety Leadership Structures and Systems**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NQF#</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Developer:</strong></td>
<td>The Leapfrog Group</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Data Source:</strong></td>
<td>Leapfrog Hospital Survey</td>
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</tbody>
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**Practice Statement:** Hospital leadership structures and systems must be established to ensure and perpetuate a Culture of Safety.

**Rationale:** According to The Joint Commission, leadership failure is one of the most frequent causes of sentinel events. Failure of execution of governance and administrative leadership strategies by midlevel managers is a major component of the problem. Engagement of governance boards in quality and safety directly affects their organizations’ performance. Studies of organizations from all industry sectors reveal that failure in reliability and systems performance stems from inconsistent execution more than from failure of strategy. While the severity of harm resulting from inadequate performance of leadership structures and systems that are driven by a commitment to quality control cannot be definitively quantified, chronic failure of consistent execution plagues all industries. Severe shortfalls in performance are seen across organizations throughout the entire health care industry. Preventability of harm to patients and sustainable transformation to a higher state of reliability is directly related to governance board engagement and administrative execution.

**Citations for Rationale:**

**Impact:**
- Potential to affect most hospitalized patients
- Severity of harm cannot be definitively quantified

**Citations for Impact:**

**Opportunity:**
- Opportunity for improvement exists, as demonstrated by the coefficient of variation for the measure.

**Evidence:**
- Supported by theoretical rationale.

**Citations for Evidence:**

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NQF Safe practices for better healthcare-2010 update: A consensus report.