

Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee

June 15-16, 2026 – PTAC Public Meeting

Targeting Improvements in Patient Safety Through Alternative Payment Models

Expert Biographies

SESSION 1: *Approaches to Improve Patient Safety in Alternative Payment Models*

Monday, June 15, 10:40 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. EDT

- [Susan E. Sheridan, MIM, MBA, DHL](#) – President and Chief Executive Officer, Patients for Patient Safety US (PFPS US)
- [Michelle Schreiber, MD](#) – Deputy Director of the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ) and the Director of the Quality Measurement and Value-Based Incentives Group (QMVIG), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- [Susannah Bernheim, MD, MHS](#) – Chief Medical Officer, CMS Innovation Center, CMS
- [Jason W. Mitchell, MD](#) – Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Geisinger
- [Dheerendra Kommala, MD](#) – Chief Medical Officer, ECRI

SESSION 2: *Measuring Patient Safety in Value-Based Care*

Monday, June 15, 1:10 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. EDT

- [Jeffrey J. Geppert](#) – Senior Research Leader, Battelle
- [Patrick S. Romano, MD, MPH](#) – Professor, Division of General Medicine and Division of General Pediatrics, University of California, Davis
- [Commander Karen Chaves, MHS](#) – Director, Division of Quality Measurement and Improvement, Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (CQIPS), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps
- [David C. Classen, MD, MS](#) – Professor of Medicine, University of Utah, Lead, Utah Center for Health AI and the Health IT Safety Program, and Senior Advisor, PascalMetrics

SESSION 3: *Improving Patient Safety in Value-Based Care Through the Use of Health Information Technology and Data Analytics*

Monday, June 15, 2:50 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. EDT

- [Rollin J. \(Terry\) Fairbanks, MD, MS](#) – Senior Vice President, Chief Quality and Safety Officer, MedStar Health, and Professor of Emergency Medicine, Georgetown University
- [Tejal Gandhi, MD, MPH, CPPS](#) – Chief Safety and Transformation Officer, Press Ganey Associates LLC
- [Melissa Swanfeldt](#) – Senior Director, Quality & Regulatory Compliance, MEDITECH
- [Aneesh Chopra, MPP](#) – Chair, Arcadia Institute

Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee

SESSION 4: *Payment Mechanisms and Financial Incentives to Encourage Patient Safety in Alternative Payment Models*

Tuesday, June 16, 9:10 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. EDT

- [John M. Hollingsworth, MD, MSc](#) – Urologist and Professor, University of Florida College of Medicine, and Chief Quality Officer, UF Health
- [Jennifer L. Wiler, MD, MBA, FACEP](#) – Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Co-Founder, UCHealth CARE Innovation Center, and Chief Executive Officer, Minerva Partners
- [Jimmy Blanton, MPAff](#) – Deputy Director, Quality and Program Improvement, Medicaid and CHIP Services, Texas Health and Human Services
- [Susan E. Sheridan, MIM, MBA, DHL](#) – President and Chief Executive Officer, Patients for Patient Safety US (PFPS US)

SESSION 1: *Approaches to Improve Patient Safety in Alternative Payment Models*

Monday, June 15, 10:40 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. EDT

Subject Matter Experts

Susan E. Sheridan, MIM, MBA, DHL – Patients for Patient Safety (PFPS) US

Ms. Susan E. Sheridan is President and Chief Executive Officer of Patients for Patient Safety US (PFPS US). Prior to her role at PFPS US, Ms. Sheridan served as the Director of Patient Engagement for the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine (SIDM), the Patient and Family Engagement Advisor at the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Director of Patient Engagement for the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and led the Patients for Patient Safety program at the World Health Organization (WHO).

Ms. Sheridan recently served on the Patient Safety Working Group of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and is currently the Co-Chair of the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) Patient Safety in the Era of AI initiative. She is also a member of the Lucian Leape Institute, a member of the Board of Directors of the Leapfrog Group, and a member of the Global Leadership Network of the Future of Health.



Ms. Sheridan had previously spent 10 years in patient advocacy, inspired by adverse family experiences in the healthcare system. In 2009, she was named to *Modern Healthcare's* list of Top 25 Women in Healthcare as well as *Modern Healthcare's* 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare. Prior to her leadership in patient engagement, Ms. Sheridan worked as Vice President of International Trade Finance Banking. She received her BA from Albion College, her MIM and MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and her DHL from Adrian College. Additionally, Ms. Sheridan and her late husband, Pat, served as Peace Corps volunteers in Ecuador.

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SESSION 1: Approaches to Improve Patient Safety in Alternative Payment Models

Monday, June 15, 10:40 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. EDT

Subject Matter Experts

Michelle Schreiber, MD – CMS Center for Clinical Standards and Quality

Dr. Michelle Schreiber is the Deputy Director of the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ) at CMS, and the Director of the Quality Measurement and Value-Based Incentives Group (QMVIG). Dr. Schreiber is a general internal medicine physician with over 25 years of clinical healthcare experience, and executive quality leadership of large health systems. She has a long history of advancing healthcare quality and safety on a local, State, and national level.



Since arriving at CMS in 2018, Dr. Schreiber has led numerous quality initiatives, including MIPS transformation to value pathways, the modernization of the Hospital Stars program, and advancing digital quality measurement systems. Her current focus areas include Promoting Interoperability across care settings, Quality Measurement, and Patient Safety and maternal Health and Birthing Friendly Initiatives. She advises on quality and safety of care delivery, payment and data collection strategies for multiple CMS Value Based Reporting and Payment programs and helps lead clinical and cross-agency working groups on quality, safety, and value across CMS and HHS.

Susannah Bernheim, MD, MHS – CMS Innovation Center

Dr. Susannah Bernheim is the Chief Medical Officer for the CMS Innovation Center, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. She was previously an Associate Professor at Yale University School of Medicine and Senior Director of Quality Measurement at the Yale-New Haven Hospital Centers for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE).

Dr. Bernheim completed her undergraduate degrees at Yale University and her medical degree at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). She was a fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars program at Yale University, earning a Master's degree in Health Sciences Research.



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SESSION 1: Approaches to Improve Patient Safety in Alternative Payment Models

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Subject Matter Experts

Jason W. Mitchell, MD – Geisinger

Dr. Jason Mitchell serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at Geisinger. He is responsible for the quality of care, training programs, research activities, clinical services, and fiscal performance of the health system. Dr. Mitchell came to Geisinger from Presbyterian Healthcare Services in Albuquerque, NM, where he served in various senior leadership positions since 2006, most recently as the Senior Vice President, Chief Medical Officer, and Clinical Transformation Officer. Dr. Mitchell was directly responsible for enterprise population health, financial performance, and supply chain. Additionally, he led enterprise teams for quality, safety and accreditation, clinical informatics, community health, research, medical staff, and continuous process improvement. Dr. Mitchell shared responsibilities within the health plan for medical cost management, success in government programs, Medicare Advantage stars, and risk adjustment and performance in Medicaid. He directly supported the health plan in benefits strategy and design, as well as strategic commercial and administrative sales and growth.



Prior to joining Presbyterian Healthcare Services, Dr. Mitchell served as Medical Director and Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of New Mexico. He received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and also completed his residency there. Dr. Mitchell is board-certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and the American Board of Preventive Medicine, Clinical Informatics. Dr. Mitchell sits on the board of directors for the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), a statewide organization that advocates on behalf of Pennsylvania hospitals and health systems to advance high-quality, accessible, and financially sustainable health care.

Dheerendra Kommala, MD – ECRI

Dr. Dheerendra Kommala is Chief Medical Officer at ECRI. Dr. Kommala has more than 25 years of experience as an academic clinician, researcher, and chief medical officer. He has launched products and services in global markets through collaboration with major health systems, industry leaders, clinicians, and patients. Throughout his career, Dr. Kommala has been a vocal advocate for patient safety and a visionary leader in advancing high-quality, evidence-based care. He joined ECRI in 2019 as Chief Strategy Officer, responsible for shaping the organization's strategic direction. Before joining ECRI, Dr. Kommala served as Global Vice President, Medical Affairs, at Baxter Healthcare. He also served as Chief Medical Officer/Global Vice President, Medical Affairs, at ConvaTec and Associate Medical Director, Global Pharmaceutical Research for Renal Care, at Abbott Laboratories. Dr. Kommala has presented his insights on patient safety and healthcare technologies to international audiences, including at conferences, summits, and Capitol Hill briefings. Dr. Kommala received his initial medical training in India and completed a nephrology fellowship at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine.



Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee

SESSION 2: *Measuring Patient Safety in Value-Based Care*

Monday, June 15, 1:10 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. EDT

Subject Matter Experts

Jeffrey J. Geppert – Battelle

Mr. Jeffrey J. Geppert is a Senior Research Leader at Battelle Memorial Institute in the Health Business Unit. He has served for the past thirteen years as the clinical quality measure (CQM) measurement science subject matter expert on the Measures Management System (MMS) contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and before that was the Project Director on the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Support for Quality Indicators contract for ten years.

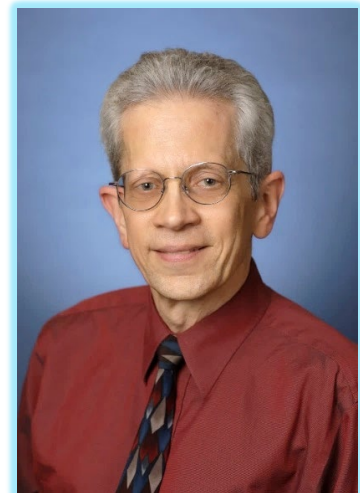
Mr. Geppert also serves as the Measurement Science Team Leader on the National Consensus Development Contract (NCDC) with CMS. Recently, he provided technical expertise to the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation grantees on the development of CQM for diagnostic performance.



Patrick S. Romano, MD, MPH – University of California, Davis

Dr. Patrick Romano, Professor of General Medicine and Pediatrics, is a physician-epidemiologist and health services researcher in the Divisions of General Medicine and General Pediatrics, the Center for Healthcare Policy and Research, and the Graduate Groups in Epidemiology, Clinical Research, Health Informatics, and Nursing Science and Healthcare Leadership at the University of California, Davis.

Dr. Romano's research and teaching interests focus on developing, testing, and validating health care quality measures, using outcomes data to improve the quality and effectiveness of health care, and studying the roles of physicians and nurses in optimizing quality and safety across the health care industry. He has published more than 250 peer-reviewed papers on a variety of topics related to health care safety and quality.



Dr. Romano has served on many expert panels and advisory groups related to his interests in evaluating and comparing the quality and outcomes of health care, refining, validating, and adapting measures that can be used to provide a rigorous evidence base for various research and policy purposes. Dr. Romano is a graduate of Princeton University, Georgetown University School of Medicine, and the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health. He completed training in internal medicine and pediatrics at University Hospitals of Cleveland, followed by fellowship training in health services research at the University of California, San Francisco.

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Subject Matter Experts

Commander Karen Chaves, MHS – Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

Commander Karen Ho Chaves is the Director of the Division of Quality Measurement and Improvement in the Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). She oversees programs responsible for providing the evidence, methodology, and research for improving healthcare in the U.S. including the AHRQ Quality Indicators, the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) and Surveys on Patient Safety Culture (SOPS). As a leading expert on minority health and data, she served as the director of the National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report, a Congressional annual report on the status of healthcare quality and disparities in the U.S., for over a decade, and as a Public Health Advisor to the White House Initiative for Asian Americans Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.



Commander Chaves also has vast experience in public health emergency response. She has served as an officer in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps for almost 20 years. During this time, she has utilized her health administration skills during deployments as a liaison officer and Planning Section Chief for numerous missions including ASPR/Secretary's Operation Center for hurricane response, Operation Allies Welcome, Unaccompanied Children, and COVID-19. Commander Chaves is a leader and mentor in the Corps. She has served the Chair of the USPHS Asian Pacific American Officers Committee. Currently, she serves as a Federal Career Coach to provide career development support for leaders in federal service. Prior to her federal service, she worked as a community advocate with the NICOS Chinese Health Coalition in San Francisco, California. Commander Chaves received her Master of Health Science in Health Policy at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology at University of California, Berkeley.

David C. Classen, MD, MS – University of Utah and PascalMetrics

Dr. David Classen is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Utah and a Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Infection Prevention, and Clinical Epidemiology at The University of Utah School of Medicine in Salt Lake City, Utah, and a Senior Advisor at Pascal Metrics, a federally certified Patient Safety Organization (PSO). He also leads the Utah Center for Health AI and the Health IT Safety Program. Dr. Classen received his medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine and a Masters of Science degree in medical informatics from the University of Utah School of Medicine. He served as Chief Medical Resident at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Classen is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. He developed the medication safety programs at Intermountain Healthcare. Dr. Classen was the Chair of Intermountain Health Care's Clinical Quality Committee for Drug Use and Evaluation, and



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Subject Matter Experts

David C. Classen, MD, MS – University of Utah and PascalMetrics (*Continued*)

was also the initial developer of patient safety research and patient safety programs at Intermountain Healthcare. In addition, he developed, implemented, and evaluated a computerized physician order entry program at LDS Hospital that significantly improved the safety of medication use. Dr. Classen was a member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee that developed the National Healthcare Quality Report, the IOM Committee on Patient Safety Data Standards, and the IOM Committee on Health Information Technology and Patient Safety. He chaired the QUIC (Federal Safety Taskforce)/IHI Collaborative on Improving Safety in High Hazard Areas, and was a Co-Chair of the Institute of Healthcare Improvements Collaborative on Perioperative Safety and the Surgical Safety Collaborative at the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI).

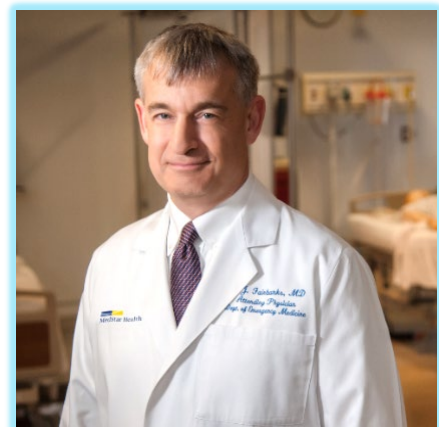
Dr. Classen was also a faculty member of the IHI/National Health Foundation Safer Patients Initiative in the United Kingdom. In addition, he is one of the developers of the “Trigger Tool Methodology” at IHI, used for the improved detection of adverse events, which is currently being used by more than 1,000 different healthcare organizations throughout the United States and Europe. Dr. Classen currently co-chairs the National Quality Forum’s AHRQ Common Formats Committee, is an advisor to the Leapfrog Group, and has developed and implemented the CPOE/EHR flight simulator for AHRQ and the National Quality Forum. This Electronic Health Record (EHR) flight simulator has been used to evaluate hundreds of inpatient and ambulatory EHR systems after implementation across the United States and the United Kingdom, and is a critical Health IT Safety Measure of the National Quality Forum’s Safe Practice #16 for Computerized Provider Order Entry within EHRs.

SESSION 3: *Improving Patient Safety in Value-Based Care Through the Use of Health Information Technology and Data Analytics*
Monday, June 15, 2:50 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. EDT

Subject Matter Experts

Rollin J. (Terry) Fairbanks, MD, MS – MedStar Health and Georgetown University

Dr. Rollin J. “Terry” Fairbanks is Senior Vice President, Chief Quality & Safety Officer, MedStar Health, and Professor of Emergency Medicine, Georgetown University, responsible for clinical quality, patient safety, infection prevention, and health equity at MedStar Health, a 10-hospital academic health system in the Baltimore/Washington DC region. An emergency medicine physician, human factors engineer, safety science researcher, and former paramedic and general aviation pilot, Dr. Fairbanks founded the National Center for Human Factors in Healthcare in 2010, the largest healthcare-embedded human factors/safety center in the US. He has published more than 200 papers and a book on healthcare safety, and served in advisory roles for the US, Great Britain, Spain, and Australian governments.



Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee

**SESSION 3: Improving Patient Safety in Value-Based Care Through the Use of Health Information
Technology and Data Analytics**
Monday, June 15, 2:50 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. EDT

Subject Matter Experts

Rollin J. (Terry) Fairbanks, MD, MS – MedStar Health and Georgetown University (*Continued*)

Dr. Fairbanks is an elected Fellow in the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, appointed member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Board on Human-Systems Integration, Chair of the Certification Board for Patient Safety Professionals (CPPS), and Chair of the Mid-Atlantic Patient Safety Center Board of Directors. Dr. Fairbanks earned a BA in mathematics and physics from Potsdam College, an MS in human factors/industrial systems engineering from Virginia Tech, a medical degree from VCU/Medical College of Virginia, and an emergency medicine residency at the University of Rochester, where he served as chief resident. He is a recipient of the 2021 Robert Wears Safety Leadership Award and the 2025 Joint Commission/NQF Eisenberg Award for Individual Achievement in Quality and Safety.

Tejal Gandhi, MD, MPH, CPPS – Press Ganey Associates LLC

Dr. Tejal Gandhi is the Chief Safety and Transformation Officer at Press Ganey. In this role, she is responsible for advancing the Zero Harm movement, improving patient and workforce safety, and developing innovative health care transformation strategies. Dr. Gandhi is leading Press Ganey's Equity Partnership to advance equity in health care, as well as its Patient Safety Organization, one of the largest in the country.



Before joining Press Ganey, Dr. Gandhi served as Chief Clinical and Safety Officer at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), where she led IHI programs focusing on improving patient and workforce safety and was President and CEO of the National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF) from 2013 until 2017, when NPSF merged with IHI. Dr. Gandhi has been named as one of the "100 Most Influential People in Healthcare," "Top 25 Women in Healthcare," "Top 25 Diversity Leaders in Healthcare," and "50 Most Influential Clinical Executives" by Modern Healthcare magazine and one of the "Top Patient Safety Experts to Know" and "Top Women in Health IT to Know" by Beckers Hospital Review. She received her MD and MPH degrees from Harvard Medical School and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and trained at Duke University Medical Center.

Melissa Swanfeldt – MEDITECH

Ms. Melissa Swanfeldt is a seasoned healthcare leader with a passion for driving technological advancements and enhancing quality across the healthcare continuum. As Senior Director of Quality & Regulatory Compliance at MEDITECH, she spearheads critical initiatives including quality management, EHR certification, and medical device oversight. Ms. Swanfeldt is a champion of continuous process improvement, serving as the executive sponsor of MEDITECH's Quality Management Steering Board and actively participating in key committees, including the Medical Device Board and the Patient Safety Review Board.



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Subject Matter Experts

Melissa Swanfeldt – MEDITECH (*Continued*)

Beyond her role at MEDITECH, Ms. Swanfeldt contributes to industry initiatives and advocacy as the Co-Chair of the EHRA Value Based Care & Quality Programs workgroup and is a member of the HIMSS Public Policy Committee. Ms. Swanfeldt holds a B.S. in Health Information Administration from Northeastern University in Boston. Prior to her tenure at MEDITECH, she served as a supervisor of health information management at New England Baptist Hospital.

Aneesh Chopra, MPP – Arcadia Institute

Mr. Aneesh Chopra is Chair of the Arcadia Institute — an independent research and policy hub combining open and large-scale real-world healthcare data to generate evidence-based insights on performance and policy. He served as the first U.S. Chief Technology Officer (2009–2012), where he advanced the nation’s innovation agenda by promoting open data, open standards, and public-private collaboration. Mr. Chopra advises technology and healthcare companies participating in the CMS Health Tech Ecosystem and is the author of “Innovative State: How New Technologies Can Transform Government” (2014). He serves on the National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee, on the boards of Trimedx, IntegraConnect, Virginia Center for Health Innovation, and the George Mason Innovation Advisory Council. Mr. Chopra holds degrees from the Harvard Kennedy School and Johns Hopkins University.



SESSION 4: *Payment Mechanisms and Financial Incentives to Encourage Patient Safety in Alternative Payment Models*

Tuesday, June 16, 9:10 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. EDT

Subject Matter Experts

John M. Hollingsworth, MD, MSc – University of Florida College of Medicine and UF Health

Dr. John Hollingsworth is a urologist and tenured professor at the University of Florida College of Medicine. He currently serves as System Chief Quality Officer for UF Health. In this role, Dr. John Hollingsworth is the senior executive responsible for advancing clinical quality, patient safety, patient experience and regulatory performance across a statewide academic health system. UF Health employs more than 30,000 faculty and staff, provides care to over 4 million patients annually, and operates 12 hospitals and hundreds of physician practices and outpatient facilities throughout Northeast, North Central, and Central Florida.



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Subject Matter Experts

John M. Hollingsworth, MD, MSc – University of Florida College of Medicine and UF Health
(Continued)

Dr. John Hollingsworth assumed his system-level role after serving as Chief Quality Officer for UF Health Shands Hospital, a quaternary academic medical center in Gainesville, and for UF Health Physicians, a 1,000-physician multispecialty group practice (2024–25). Prior to joining UF Health, Dr. Hollingsworth led clinical excellence initiatives at Endeavor Health, where he served as Chief of Acute Care Quality and Patient Safety for Evanston, Skokie, Glenbrook, and Highland Park Hospitals (2022–24). In addition to Dr. Hollingsworth’s executive leadership, he is an internationally recognized health services researcher with more than a decade of continuous federal funding and nearly 200 peer-reviewed publications. His work has reshaped approaches to kidney stone management, advanced methods for studying physician-patient-sharing networks, informed the design of delivery system reforms such as Accountable Care Organizations, and contributed to national policy discussions on strategies to strengthen hospital performance. In recognition of his scientific contributions, Dr. Hollingsworth was inducted into the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

Jennifer L. Wiler, MD, MBA, FACEP – University of Colorado School of Medicine, UHealth CARE Innovation Center, and Minerva Partners

Dr. Jennifer L. Wiler is a tenured Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Co-Founder of the UHealth CARE Innovation Center, and CEO of Minerva Partners. She is nationally recognized as an expert in quality and patient safety, healthcare operations, technology enabled care and payment policy; and was named by Becker’s Healthcare a “Top 26 Patient Safety Expert to Know” in 2022.

Dr. Wiler has authored over 300 peer-reviewed papers, book chapters and abstracts and is senior editor of the book “Value and Quality Innovations in Acute and Emergency Care” (Cambridge Press, 2017) and is faculty for the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and American Academy of Physician Leaders (AAPL). She has won numerous national awards including being named the “Emergency Physician of the Year” for Pennsylvania, a “Nation’s Top Emergency Physicians 45 Under 45”, an American Medical Association “Inspirational Physician”, and recipient of the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) “Inspire Award”.



Over the last two decades, Dr. Wiler has held numerous healthcare delivery-system roles including Chief Quality Officer, and served in numerous state and national leadership positions including appointment by the U.S. Governmental Accountability Office to the Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC), Chair of the American Medical Association Women Physicians Congress, and the American College of Emergency Physicians representative to the AMA RBRVS Updates Committee (RUC).

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SESSION 4: *Payment Mechanisms and Financial Incentives to Encourage Patient Safety in Alternative Payment Models*

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Subject Matter Experts

Jimmy Blanton, MPAff – Texas Health and Human Services

Mr. Jimmy Blanton is a dedicated public health professional serving as the Deputy Director of Quality and Program Improvement within Medicaid and CHIP Services at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Based in the Austin area, he has over 30 years' experience with health and human services, specializing in value-based initiatives and performance improvement for Texas's public health and health care programs.



As Deputy Director for Quality and Program Improvement, Mr. Blanton leads efforts to enhance the value and quality of services provided to 4.5 million Texans served by the state's Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). His work focuses on three areas: 1) value-based initiatives, overseeing initiatives that align payment with quality outcomes, including alternative payment models and managed care organization incentives, 2) managed care quality strategy, developing strategies to improve health outcomes and reduce costs in Texas Medicaid and CHIP, and 3) program improvement, monitoring quality measures, including prenatal care, maternal health, and reducing potentially preventable events. Mr. Blanton earned a master's degree in public Affairs (MPAff) from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin. He has extensive experience in data analytics, healthcare policy research, and fiscal impact analysis.

Susan E. Sheridan, MIM, MBA, DHL – Patients for Patient Safety (PFPS) US

Ms. Susan E. Sheridan is President and Chief Executive Officer of Patients for Patient Safety US (PFPS US). Prior to her role at PFPS US, Ms. Sheridan served as the Director of Patient Engagement for the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine (SIDM), the Patient and Family Engagement Advisor at the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Director of Patient Engagement for the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and led the Patients for Patient Safety program at the World Health Organization (WHO).



Ms. Sheridan recently served on the Patient Safety Working Group of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and is currently the Co-Chair of the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) Patient Safety in the Era of AI initiative. She is also a member of the Lucian Leape Institute, a member of the Board of Directors of the Leapfrog Group, and a member of the Global Leadership Network of the Future of Health. Ms. Sheridan had previously spent 10 years in patient advocacy, inspired by adverse family experiences in the healthcare system. In 2009, she was named to *Modern Healthcare's* list of Top 25 Women in Healthcare as well as *Modern Healthcare's* 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare. Prior to her leadership in patient engagement, Ms. Sheridan worked as Vice President of International Trade Finance Banking. She received her BA from Albion College, her MIM and MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and her DHL from Adrian College.