

# ***Health Policy Newsletter***

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## New Publications from the Office of Health Policy

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Nash, DB. The Wisdom of Ian Morrison, PhD. Editorial. *P&T 2001*; 26(7): 348.

Chatterton, ML, Corrato, RR and Nash, DB. Health Economic Evaluations and Ultrasound Contrast Agents: A Primer. In: Goldberg B, ed. *Ultrasound Contrast Agents: Basic Principles and Clinical Applications*. 2nd ed.; chap. 34.

Pizzi, LT, Goldfarb, NI, and Nash, DB. Promoting a Culture of Safety. Chaps. 40, 44, 48, and 50.

In: Shojania, KG, Duncan BW, McDonald KM, Wachter RM, eds. *Making Healthcare Safer: An Evidenced-Based Compendium of Patient Safety Practices*. Technical report prepared by the UCSF Stanford Evidence-based Practice Center for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (Task Order No. 6 of AHRQ Contract No. 290-97-0013); 2001.

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### **OHP Contributes to AHRQ Report on Patient Safety Practices**

The Office of Health Policy and Clinical Outcomes has made a significant contribution to the recently published *Making Health Care Safer: A Critical Analysis of Patient Safety Practices*, a comprehensive evidence report compiled for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) by an investigator team at the University of California San Francisco. The 640-page report, released in July, includes four chapters authored by OHP staff members Laura Pizzi, PharmD, Research Project Manager, Neil Goldfarb, Program Director for Research, and David B. Nash, MD, MBA, Associate Dean and Director.

The report identifies 79 patient safety practices in both non-medical and traditional clinical areas and evaluates and rates these practices based on their potential impact, strength of supporting evidence, and implementation. The purpose of the report is to assist health care organizations in taking actions to improve the safety of the care they provide and to inform research funders about potential investments for their support. In addition, the National Forum for Health Care Quality Measurement and Reporting (NQF) will use the results to identify a set of proven safety practices for consumers to refer to when choosing their health care providers. This publication represents the first comprehensive effort to examine patient safety using evidence-based medicine.

Copies of the full report are available free of charge from the AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse by calling 800-358-9295 or sending an e-mail to [ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov](mailto:ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov). Requestors should ask for Evidence Report/Technology Assessment No. 43, *Making Health Care Safer: A Critical Analysis of Patient Safety Practices* (AHRQ Publication No. 01-E058). Internet users can access the report online through AHRQ's web site at [www.ahrq.gov/clinic/epcix.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/epcix.htm)