

# RISK, SAFETY, QUALITY NEWS & REVIEWS

## SAFE START MEDICAL

PATIENT SAFETY DAY AND USA CONSTITUTION DAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2024



**“Make sure that physicians not federal agencies and/or their spokespersons determine the best care for the patient.”**

*-SOURCE RICHARD VAZQUEZ MD*



**SAFESTART**  
*Start Surgery Safely*

Today we celebrate patient safety day but more importantly we should celebrate patient safety every day of every year.

On September 17, 1787, our safety as citizens of the USA approached reality when the framers of the Constitution of the United States of America signed off its completion. So we have much to celebrate today and to be thankful for. We must be guided by the Hippocratic Oath circa 400 BC “the

physician pledges to prescribe only beneficial treatments, according to his [SIC or her] abilities and judgment; to refrain from causing harm or hurt; and to live an exemplary personal and professional life”. (Encyclopedia Britannica).

Physicians today need to reaffirm their commitment to prescribe only treatments or procedures that are beneficial to the patient. Clearly this concept merges into obtaining a proper informed consent an important subject itself that I will discuss more than once in the future.

Only physicians not federal agencies care for patients and only physicians in consultation with their patients should deliver treatment that both deem safe and effective for the patient's problem.

**A new demon for us are those who put profits before patients**

The phrase "Putting patients before profits" must be a familiar refrain all the more today. When physicians wear out they may sell their practices to private equity who have a fiduciary duty to shareholders but not to the patient. They tend to always make decisions for a financial profit motive and not for the delivery of optimal care to the patient.

This certainly smacks of a serious conflict of interest since profit for the shareholders becomes king and deposes the patients from their position of prominence as being the most important stakeholder in the healthcare delivery system.

**Let us remember to always put patients and patient safety before profit.**

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**Curiously, safety and speed go well together but that is a subject for another that may be beyond comprehension of non-clinical C suite members.**

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## **Healthcare Risk, Quality, Safety News and Reviews**

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