# Overview

The Washington Patient Safety Coalition Speak-Up! Award is a statewide recognition program designed to celebrate the efforts of individuals or teams in Washington State who demonstrate a commitment to keeping patients and staff safe by speaking up and voicing their concerns to promote health care safety.

Speaking up is a strong indicator of a culture of safety and a nomination for this award indicates that nominees did the right thing for the safety of patients and staff. Their actions serve as a model to others.

The award is a tool to support efforts to eliminate preventable harm caused by miscommunication and non-communication.

## Nominations

* The WPSC Speak-Up! Award is open to individuals and teams from any Washington healthcare organization, such as hospitals, pharmacies, skilled nursing facilities, clinics and physician offices to name some examples.
* All nominations are submitted through an [on-line form](https://www.qualityhealth.org/wpsc/patient-safety-initiatives/speak-up-awards/#1635372607979-a9736758-9b2c) on the WPSC website.
* Nominations should be for events within 12 months prior to the nominating period.
* You can nominate the same individual or team multiple times, but it must be for a different event.
* There is a limit of one award finalist per facility, per award cycle. All organizations and staff are encouraged to nominate as many individuals as they would like, however, only one nominee will move into the finalist pool per award cycle.
* Nominations are accepted on an ongoing basis and will be reviewed and awarded twice a year. Award winners and all nominees will receive recognition at the annual NW Patient Safety Conference.
* The WPSC may publish the nominee's name if selected as a finalist. Please email WPSC@qualityhealth.org if you would not like your name shared.
* Application and supplementary materials provided during the nomination process will not be returned.

## Evaluation process

All nominations are reviewed by a committee of patient safety and quality improvement leaders and patient advocates. Criteria includes completeness of the nomination form, the nature of the event, the impact of the prevented adverse event or error, and transparency and communication.

## Award Presentation

Awards are given twice a year. All nominees are congratulated and receive recognition through the WPSC’s website and patient safety newsletter. Finalists and award winners will receive recognition at the annual NW Patient Safety Conference and free registration. If approved by the awardee’s organization, the WPSC will arrange for an onsite recognition event.

# Press Release

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|  | **Contact:** Steve Levy, Executive Director, Washington Patient Safety Coalition  [slevy@qualityhealth.org](mailto:slevy@qualityhealth.org)  (954) 540-3860 |

**For Immediate Release**

**New statewide award to recognize healthcare staff who make the “good catches” and speak up to keep patients and staff safe.**

[The Washington Patient Safety Coalition (WPSC)](https://www.qualityhealth.org/wpsc/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/02/nqf_action_team_on_virtual_healthcare_quality_issue_brief.pdf) launched the *WPSC Speak-Up! Award*. It is a statewide recognition program that celebrates the efforts of individuals and teams at Washington healthcare organizations who demonstrate a commitment to keeping patients and staff safe by speaking up and voicing their concerns to promote health care safety.

It is open to individuals and teams from all Washington healthcare organizations. More information on the WPSC Speak-Up! Award may be found on the [WPSC website.](https://www.qualityhealth.org/wpsc/patient-safety-initiatives/speak-up-awards/#1616535951297-3c18bb5a-e765)

Making a “good catch” and speaking up is a strong indicator of a positive organizational culture of safety that prevents harm. Additionally, results from a cost-savings analysis by the MHA Keystone Center in Michigan applied to a similar award program suggest that *each instance* of speaking up by staff saves patients, families, and health care organizations an average of more than $13,000.1

*About the Washington Patient Safety Coalition*

*The WPSC’s mission is to improve safety for patients receiving health care in Washington, in all care settings. Established in 2002, it is an unaffiliated and independent member-based program of 40+ organizations representing healthcare systems, associations, advocacy groups and regulatory agencies. The WPSC is a program of the* [*Foundation for Healthcare Quality*](https://www.qualityhealth.org/wpsc/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/02/nqf_action_team_on_virtual_healthcare_quality_issue_brief.pdf)*.*

*1) Novak A. Improving safety through speaking up: An ethical and financial imperative. J Healthc Risk Manag. 2019 Jul;39(1):19-27.*

# Letter to Leadership

Dear Health Care Leader,

The Washington Patient Safety Coalition (WPSC), a program of the Foundation for Health Care Quality has created a program to support your efforts to create a culture of safety, reduce preventable errors, and retain staff.

The *WPSC Speak-Up! Award is* a statewide recognition program designed to celebrate the efforts of individuals and teams in Washington State health systems who make the “good catches” and speak up to keep patients and staff safe. It elevates internal good catch programs to another level.

The WPSC Speak-Up! Award is open to individuals and teams from any Washington healthcare organization.

Awards are given three times a year. All nominees are congratulated, and finalists and award winners receive recognition at the annual NW Patient Safety Conference and free registration.

Award and nomination details are available on the [WPSC’s website](https://www.qualityhealth.org/wpsc/patient-safety-initiatives/speak-up-awards/).

This program is modeled after similar awards in Michigan, Virginia, and Minnesota. The Michigan program demonstrated there was an improvement in culture survey results across a 2-year period coinciding with the launch and sustainment of their award program.1

It is our honor and privilege to support your ongoing work of making healthcare safer and highly reliable.

Should you have any questions about the WPSC Speak-Up! Award, please feel free to contact Steve Levy at (954) 540-3860 or slevy@qualityhealth.org.

We look forward to receiving your nominations!

Sincerely,

Steve Levy

Executive Director

Washington Patient Safety Coalition, Foundation for Healthcare Quality

*1) Novak A.* *Improving safety through speaking up: An ethical and financial imperative. J Healthc Risk Manag. 2019 Jul;39(1):19-27.*

# Email to Organizations and Members

Dear XXX

We encourage you to nominate staff for the Washington Patient Safety Coalition Speak-Up! Award.

It is open to individuals and teams from all Washington healthcare organizations. Nominating is simple and done through an [online form](https://www.qualityhealth.org/wpsc/patient-safety-initiatives/speak-up-awards/#1616535951297-3c18bb5a-e765).

The award is a statewide recognition program to celebrate the efforts of individuals and teams at Washington healthcare organizations who demonstrate a commitment to keeping patients and staff safe by speaking up and voicing their concerns to promote health care safety.

The award is a fantastic way to support and energize your “good catch” programs by taking it to the next level.

More information on the WPSC Speak-Up! Award may be found on the [WPSC website](https://www.qualityhealth.org/wpsc/patient-safety-initiatives/speak-up-awards/#1616535951297-3c18bb5a-e765) or contact Steve Levy, Executive Director, WPSC at slevy@qualityhealth.org.

# Email to Staff

Dear XXX

We encourage you to nominate your colleagues for the Washington Patient Safety Coalition Speak-Up! Award. The award is a statewide recognition program to celebrate the efforts of individuals and teams at Washington healthcare organizations who demonstrate a commitment to keeping patients and staff safe by speaking up and voicing their concerns to promote health care safety.

It is open to individuals and teams from all Washington healthcare organizations. Nominating is simple and done through an [online form](https://www.qualityhealth.org/wpsc/patient-safety-initiatives/speak-up-awards/#1616535951297-3c18bb5a-e765). Patient Safety Officers and managers are encouraged to draw nominations from existing “good catches”.

Finalists and winners receive free registration to the Washington Patient Safety Coalition’s annual patient safety conference.

More information on the WPSC Speak-Up! Award may be found on the [WPSC website](https://www.qualityhealth.org/wpsc/patient-safety-initiatives/speak-up-awards/#1616535951297-3c18bb5a-e765) or contact Steve Levy, Executive Director, WPSC at slevy@qualityhealth.org.