Patients’ Perspectives of Engagement as a Safety Strategy

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More than 15 years after the seminal Institute of Medicine (2000) report *To Err Is Human: Building a Safer Health System* identified iatrogenic events as a leading cause of death among Americans, patient safety continues to pose a challenge to the U.S. healthcare system (National Patient Safety Foundation [NPSF], 2015). One of the most prominent initiatives that spawned from the patient safety movement has been the drive for patient engagement as a patient safety strategy (Doherty & Stravropoulou, 2012; NPSF Lucian Leape Institute, 2014; Schwappach, 2010; Severinson & Holm, 2015; Wright et al., 2016). This trend, described as the “What can patients do to prevent medical mistakes?” movement (Wachter, 2010), continues to be fueled by the support of thought leaders and regulatory bodies alike (Joint Commission, 2016; NPSF Lucian Leape Institute, 2014).

Evidence suggests that most patients are willing to engage and capable of engaging in actions recommended by various patient safety organizations, such as asking questions, providing information, and reporting when their safety has been compromised (Berger, Flickinger, Plo, Martinez, & Dy, 2014; Davis, Sevdalis, &