



**SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI**  
(A University established by an act of A.P. State Legislature)

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**PRESS NOTE**

**9<sup>th</sup> December, 2018**

**HOW SAFE ARE OUR HOSPITALS?..Not Safe Enough- Dr.T.S.Ravikumar**  
**Safe Practices Save Lives: 500,000 lives campaign through hospital patient safety**  
**SVIMS unveils several additional Quality measures on World Patient Safety Day**

Every year December 9<sup>th</sup> is marked as World Patient Safety Day. On this day, SVIMS is launching two programs in its ongoing strategy to improve patient care: First, as one -of -a- kind initiative in India, the data on **Real-time Patient Experience of Care** from the last 6 months will be uploaded in the quality domain of its website that is accessible to public. The second initiative is to start **Patient Safety & Quality dashboard** in each of the wards, to assess and reward performance.

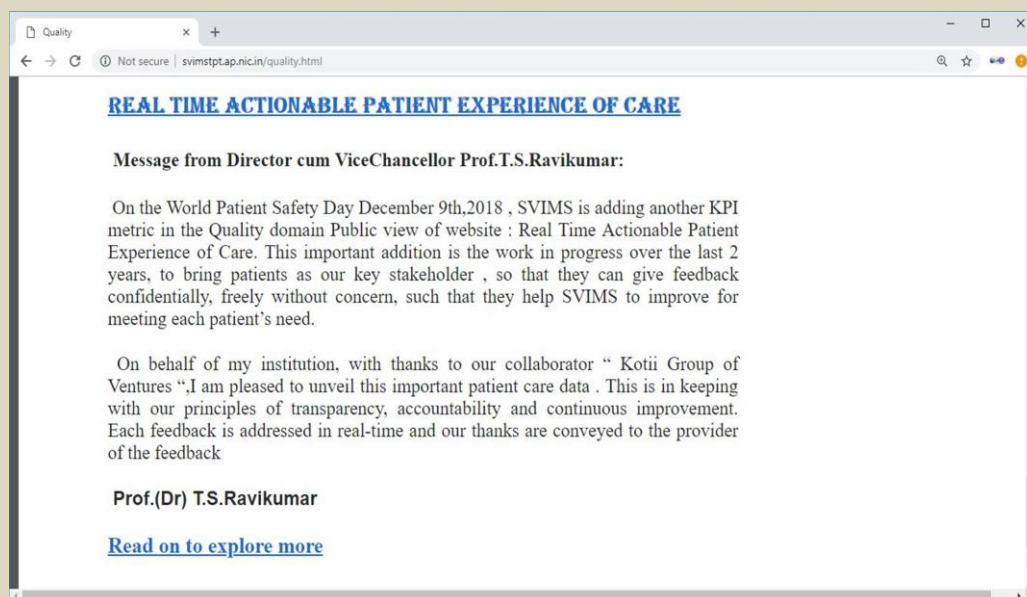
Hospitals are expected to provide treatment that is patient-centred, effective both in terms of cost as well as outcomes, and safe. Further, health systems should be accountable and transparent. These are the underpinnings of Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety. Despite the noble intentions of everyone involved in health care to do the best for every patient, it is known globally that hospital is not the safest place to be in, and hence many treatments are moved to outpatient setting whenever feasible. However, when patients are sick, they seek care in the inpatient setting. The medical ethics of Latin phrase, “primum non nocere” (first, do no harm) implies that it is unethical to provide unsafe care. It is documented globally that one in ten patients is harmed while receiving healthcare. Many of these are preventable. And, patient experience during the care process is one of the most important

Mitigation of such ‘Preventable Harm’ during healthcare delivery is the focus of patient safety strategies. We categorise this into two groups: 1. Passive harm, otherwise known as ‘failure to rescue’ of a deteriorating patient in a timely manner with the right team. 2. Active harm, that is unintentional while intending to do the right thing.

Over the last three years, a series of patient safety measures are implemented at SVIMS at periodic intervals with the goal of continuous self improvement. Each of these hospital patient safety steps is planned ahead, implemented in “spells” and its impact measured as a series of spells. This strategy is an innovation, which Prof. Ravikumar has termed “Multiple Wedges of Improvement” a concept borrowed from Climate Change strategy.

Recent publications in Lancet portray the magnitude of preventable deaths in India. The figures are staggering: about 2.4million per year die due to poor quality of care; among these, about 800,000 are due to lack of access to care, and 1.6 million deaths are due to poor quality of care rendered. This represents the quality problem overall in all sectors of healthcare. Our focus is in improving hospital safety, and in this realm, we have calculated preventable deaths in hospitals from the experience during the last 3 years. We posit that one life could be saved per 2.5 beds in a hospital per year, by implementing several measures: code blue, regular morbidity/ mortality review, root cause analysis of sentinel events, eliminating ‘Never events’ (events that are shocking, that should never occur in healthcare), improving communications, and using real time feedback from patients to drive performance. Based on this estimate, with about 1.6 million hospital beds in India, about 500,000- 640,000 lives could be saved by instituting hospital patient safety practices. This forms the basis for our 500,000 lives campaign in hospital safety in India.

A proposal has been sent by Dr. T. S. Ravikumar incorporating all the above strategies towards a National Patient Safety Cell to ICMR and DGHS, since the GOI Ministry of Health is launching National Patient Safety Framework in 2018.



The data received from **SVIMS-Patient Experience of Care Portal** updated in SVIMS website under [Quality & Patient Safety](#) domain for public view on 09.12.2018.