

## Patient Safety Case Commentary

With *Case Notes*, the Patient Safety Commission begins sharing an occasional series of case studies. These studies are drawn from analysis of adverse event reports submitted to the Commission and brought to the Commission's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). All reports are de-identified to assure confidentiality.

TAC members bring diverse perspectives to their analysis; they include physicians, nurses, a pharmacist, an ethicist and a nuclear safety expert. They are joined by Commissioners Sandy Douma and Gloria Larson and led by staff Leslie Ray. Their in-depth examinations provide the basis for the studies' commentary, learnings, and possible actions.

Before a case study is published it is reviewed by the hospital that submitted it, to help interpret the findings and to ensure accuracy and confidentiality.

By sharing case studies, the Commission hopes to:

- 1] prompt broader and deeper reflection of the complex factors leading to adverse events;
- 2] extend learnings from the adverse event reporting program to a wider audience; and
- 3] illustrate multiple ways of analyzing the root causes of adverse events.

The **November 2007** case study is *Constraints of Culture.*