

Edward Pollak, M.D.

Medical Director and Patient Safety Officer, Division of Healthcare Improvement

Edward Pollak, M.D., is the medical director and patient safety officer in the Division of Healthcare Improvement at The Joint Commission. In this role, he is responsible for promoting The Joint Commission's performance improvement and patient safety initiatives. Dr. Pollak provides oversight and medical expertise to the Office of Quality and Patient Safety, which reviews and responds to reports of patient safety events at accredited and certified health care organizations. He also provides oversight for the interpretation of clinical accreditation standards and leads the Patient Safety Advisory Group, a panel of external health care industry experts, to identify emerging patient safety issues and advise on the development of National Patient Safety Goals, Sentinel Event Alerts and accreditation standards.

Most recently, Dr. Pollak served as vice chief of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at William Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak, and associate professor at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, Royal Oak, Michigan. A practicing board-certified anesthesiologist, he has achieved advanced certification in perioperative echocardiography, and also published and presented nationally on perioperative quality, safety and service. His postgraduate work includes patient safety officer training at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), and root cause analysis training at ECRI Institute. While he was patient safety officer at William Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak, Dr. Pollak helped lead the hospital to consistent top performance in patient safety and quality improvement by championing a robust safety culture.

Dr. Pollak received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and completed his residency in anesthesiology at the University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor. In addition to his medical background, Dr. Pollak holds a master's degree in philosophy from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he wrote his thesis on ethics.

