



# LOUISE H. BATZ PATIENT SAFETY FOUNDATION

Protecting the Patient First

NOVEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

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November is Diabetes Patient Awareness Month. According to the American Diabetes Association, nearly 24 million Americans are diabetic and another 57 million Americans are at risk for developing diabetes. Diabetics are four times more likely than non-diabetics to be hospitalized this year\*. Diabetics and their families should be aware of some of the unique challenges they face when they are in the hospital.



### INSULIN PRESCRIPTIONS IN THE HOSPITAL

Insulin prescriptions are vital but can also be a source of medical errors. To avoid mistakes, make sure that these five precautions are taken:

1. Date of the prescription is clearly written
2. Prescriber's signature and contact details are legible
3. The word "insulin" and the brand name of the medication are written in full
4. "Units" should be written in full with no abbreviations
5. The form dosage (cartridge, vial, and pen) is clearly written\*\*

Ensuring that these five steps have been taken will help to make a safe and healthy hospital stay for diabetics. Please share this information with anyone you know that might be impacted by diabetes.



### SAN ANTONIO SAFETY COLLABORATIVE

Healthcare professionals in San Antonio joined forces to discuss safety initiatives related to patient controlled analgesia (PCA). This group is called the San Antonio Safety Collaborative (SASC) and the catalyst for this movement was the tragic death of Louise H. Batz, who suffered a medication error while on PCA in April of 2009. With the urging of the Foundation and the presentation of PCA safety research, members of the safety collaborative met repeatedly during 2010 to systematically review literature, share resources, discuss risk reduction strategies, and improve practices across our healthcare community. A major outcome of these meetings was the development of guidelines to reduce the actual and potential harmful effects to the patient receiving PCA analgesia without compromising effective pain management. This demonstrates that working together as a team we can reduce preventable medical errors in our community.

When we started on this journey our main goal is to help other families not experience the pain that we have felt from losing Mom. It is a great feeling to know that patients will be so much safer now because of the adoption of the PCA safety collaborative guidelines. For more information, please watch the video from



### 2011 PILOT PROGRAM

In 2011, we will collaborate with the Baptist Healthcare System and University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio (UTHSCSA) to implement a six-month pilot study at Northeast Baptist Hospital's Orthopedic Unit. We will provide educational materials to patients and families in hopes of effectively integrating our patient safety model into the hospital's culture. The pilot program will include:

- UTHSCSA's Academic Center for Evidence-Based Practice systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of The Batz Guide including the iPad and iPhone applications
- Implementation of our communication and teamwork recommendations that stress the importance of patients, families, nurses and doctors working together to improve patient safety.
- Outreach activities to healthcare professionals by Laura and her uncle, Dr. Charles Holzouser.
- Training by nurses and nursing students for family members of patients once a week during pre-surgery meetings on how to use the Foundation's educational materials.

Our goal is to replicate this model in other hospitals in San Antonio and across the United States. We are anxious to understand how our current resources are saving lives and what we might focus on in the future to make an impact.

### THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

My mom was such a wonderful cook and Thanksgiving was probably my favorite day of the year. I love my mom's Green Bean Casserole. Our whole family always highly anticipated it each year on Thanksgiving. She would put it in the oven after baking the turkey all night and right after watching the Macy's Day Parade. I loved how the kitchen smelled that day; it was the smell of happiness, love, and traditions. I am so thankful for the all of those wonderful Thanksgiving mornings, and I am so thankful that I was blessed with such a wonderful mom. I hope you enjoy this recipe as we have over the years. Happy Thanksgiving!

#### Green Bean Casserole

- 2 cans of french style cut green beans
- 2 cans of cream of mushroom soup
- 1 to 2 bags of Hormel or (store brand) frozen whole onion rings

Drain the liquid of the green beans into a glass and set aside. Pour the Beans into a casserole dish. Mix the cream of mushroom soup in with the beans. Mix in about half of liquid (just don't make it too runny) Place the onion rings on top of the green bean/soup mixture

Cover and bake at 350 for 30-45 minutes

Have a favorite family recipe you would like to share? Visit our message board at [www.louisebatz.org](http://www.louisebatz.org).

### OUR LOGO: WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

Louise Batz and her family have called San Antonio, Texas home since the late 1800's. San Antonio has a rich culture of Mexican traditions and influence. My mom loved to wear traditional Oaxacan Mexican dresses, which are embroidered with colorful flowers. The purple flower and colorful vines used for the Foundation's logo came from one of my mom's dresses. The flower serves as a symbol of love, happiness and joy – just like my mom.