

As the sourcing and purchasing partners to virtually all of America's hospitals, nursing homes, surgery centers, clinics, and other providers, healthcare group purchasing organizations (GPOs) save the healthcare system \$34.1 billion annually. But GPOs also have a unique line of sight over the entire supply chain, and we are working alongside hospitals and physicians every day on the front lines of patient care. Here are a few of the ways that GPOs are improving the lives of patients:

Developing Hospital Slippers that Reduce the Fall Risk of Children



Although age-appropriate hospital slippers existed for children age 3 and up, no such product existed for 1- or 2-year olds, which created potential fall risk for mobile babies. A GPO's Pediatric Council identified this as high-need for patient safety and worked with a supplier to develop slippers with proper fit and tread. Children's hospitals across the country now use these slippers to increase safety for young children in the hospital setting.

Protecting Providers and Patients from Cybersecurity Threats



As more medical devices are connected to the network, the security of protected health information is paramount. GPOs are working with providers to deliver state-of-the-art IT capabilities; share contracting counsel and best practices to help mitigate emerging cybersecurity threats; provide secure networks and ensure that staff have the necessary training; and provide backup solutions, encryption and password protection for all IT vulnerabilities.

Improving Maternal Health through Data Analysis



To help improve the quality of care for mothers and babies across the U.S., a GPO analyzed maternity-related data, hospital discharge data, annual birth-rates, and other data points to design a 12-month optimal care model that included pregnancy, labor and delivery, and post-partum care.

Collaborating on Special Diapers for Nano Premies



Diapers that fit nano premies – babies weighing less than 2 pounds – are critical to ensuring optimal sleep and hip positioning for these smallest babies. However such diapers did not exist until a GPO Pediatric Council identified the need and worked with suppliers to bring these special diapers to market.

Reducing Deaths from Sepsis



A leading GPO worked with one of its hospital members to reduce its sepsis mortality rate by 45 percent through a comprehensive analysis to identify areas of improvement, developing an action plan with concrete milestones, and creating a triage sepsis screening tool that helps detect sepsis early in patients.

Sourcing Blood Products for ER Patients in the Wake of the Las Vegas Shooting



In the aftermath of the 2017 Las Vegas shooting, GPOs worked with two partners to source necessary blood and blood products in the Las Vegas region. Partners were standing by to deploy the orders needed for the volume of trauma patients coming into the emergency departments of GPO member hospitals.