Below is the content that will appear in the VITAL2015 poster compendium and on your VITAL2015 poster. Please review and **use track changes** to make any edits or comments, as well as to address any questions or comments from America’s Essential Hospitals staff.   
  
America’s Essential Hospitals staff will create and print your poster for you. You will receive a pdf of your poster by April 1 for final approval.

**Return your review and any accompanying materials to** [**Kristin Sinko**](mailto:ksinko@essentialhospitals.org) **no later than 5 pm ET, Friday, March 20.**Compendium abstract:  
**UAB Hospital**

**Ambulatory and Inpatient Teamwork Improves Patient Safety**

In 2013, shortcomings in UAB’s process to move patients between the inpatient and outpatient settings resulted in safety incidents that required the hospital to admit several ambulatory clinic patients. To remedy this problem, ambulatory and hospital staff collaborated on a process to ensure consistent communication and coordination of safe transportation from the clinic to the hospital. The project had three phases: development of an electronic transfer hand-off communication tool; creation of a standardized process for transferring a patient to the hospital; and implementation of a program in which the hospital deploys a nurse to the clinic to expedite the patient transfer.

Since starting the program, there has been a 90 percent reduction in adverse patient safety events. The program also improved from 22 percent to 90 percent the completion rate for electronic transfer hand-off communication forms initiated in the ambulatory clinics, and reduced by 16 percent the time between decision to admit and bed assignment – a result of efforts to move patients from the clinic to the hospital in a timely manner.

Poster content:  
**UAB Hospital**

**Ambulatory and Inpatient Teamwork Improves Patient Safety**

**Overview**

UAB ambulatory and hospital staff collaborated on a process to make clinic to hospital transportation safer following safety incidents that revealed shortcomings in how the hospital moved patients between the inpatient and outpatient settings. Since starting the program, which focuses on communication and coordination, the hospital has dramatically reduced adverse safety events, improved the completion rate for electronic transfer hand-off communication forms initiated in the ambulatory clinics, and shortened the time between decision to admit and bed assignment.

**Premise/Problem**

Shortcomings in UAB’s process to move patients between the inpatient and outpatient settings resulted in safety incidents that required the hospital to admit several ambulatory clinic patients.

**Methodology**

**Intervention/Innovation**

UAB’s project had three phases: development of an electronic transfer hand-off communication tool; creation of a standardized process for transferring a patient to the hospital; and implementation of a program in which the hospital deploys a nurse to the clinic to expedite the patient transfer.

**Success/Outcomes**

Since starting the program, there has been a 90 percent reduction in adverse patient safety events. The program also improved from 22 percent to 90 percent the completion rate for electronic transfer hand-off communication forms initiated in the ambulatory clinics, and reduced by 16 percent the time between decision to admit and bed assignment – a result of efforts to move patients from the clinic to the hospital in a timely manner.