



*PatientSafetyASAP.org* is the official website of the **Alliance for Safety Awareness for Patients (ASAP)** a non-profit organization formed by Necrotizing Fasciitis Survivor Alicia Cole and her parents Ron & Betty Cole.

Our Mission is to educate and protect patients through awareness of hospital acquired infections such as Necrotizing Fasciitis, MRSA, VRE, and Sepsis, among others.

In the 1999, Institute of Medicine report, “To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System”, hospital-based medical errors were reported as the eighth leading cause of death in the United States. Today infections contracted in our hospitals are the fourth leading cause of death in America, killing more people each year than AIDS, breast cancer, and auto accidents combined. Many of these deadly infections can be prevented by the adherence of medical staff to simple and inexpensive safety measures like compliance with hand hygiene standards.

The **Alliance for Safety Awareness for Patients** working with established advocacy groups, healthcare providers and legislators strives to end the spread of preventable hospital-acquired infections by creating a culture of safety, with infection prevention and control as a top priority.

**ASAP** believes Patient Advocacy is more important now than ever. Over the past 10 years medical errors have become increasingly commonplace. Every six minutes a person dies from an infection acquired while being treated in a U.S. hospital for something else. In California alone, Governor Schwarzenegger estimated these infections add \$3 billion to the state’s health care costs. The cost to victims and their families is immeasurable.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations has recommended all patients entering a hospital have a patient advocate with them. The **Alliance for Safety Awareness for Patients** further suggests these patients should be empowered to make informed decisions, demand accountability from their healthcare providers and become proactive participants in their own health care.

To achieve that goal, our site was created to serve as a resource center to provide the public with information, news and referrals to organizations united to combat medical errors and to reduce the number of healthcare-associated infections. We hope you will find it helpful and check it often.

***Alliance for Safety Awareness for Patients***

*14622 Ventura Blvd, #102-827*

*Sherman Oaks, CA 91403*