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Texas Spine & Joint Hospital Provides Hands-On Education During National Patient Safety Awareness Week

A recent study shows that 80% of adverse events regarding patient safety are preventable. The National Patient Safety Foundation recognizes that in order to substantially decrease adverse occurrences, a partnership between patient and healthcare provider is essential. "Texas Spine & Joint Hospital is committed to the ongoing education of staff and patients and their families to insure that patient safety is in the forefront of everything we do," said Karen Beurger, Director of Nurses at Texas Spine & Joint Hospital.

Information funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) gives these five tips to individuals regarding safety:

- Speak up if you have questions.
- Keep a list of all the medications you take.
- Make sure you get the results of any test or procedure.
- Talk with your doctor and healthcare team about your options if you need hospital care.
- Make sure you understand what will happen if you need surgery.

During National Patient Safety Awareness Week, March 3-11, 2006, Texas Spine & Joint Hospital will emphasize patients as partners through daily information programs that will offer the public several opportunities to interact with healthcare professionals regarding safety issues. "TSJH seeks to empower individuals through education and encourage them to take an active role in their healthcare safety," said Angie Nachman, Patient Safety Chairperson for Texas Spine & Joint Hospital.

Patients and Visitors will

- receive written and video information on medicines, fall prevention, infection control, and deep vein thrombosis (DVT);
- ask our pharmacist questions regarding prescription and over the counter medicines; and
- speak with a physical therapist regarding safe sitting, standing and fall prevention.

The safety information booth will be open Monday through Thursday, March 6-9, 9:00a.m.-11:00a.m. and 1:00p.m.-3:00p.m. for questions and education. A public reception on Friday, March 10 from 9:00p.m.-2:00p.m. will conclude the events for National Patient Safety Awareness Week.

The public is welcome to visit the hospital March 6-10 to receive free information on patient safety.