

# Insurer funds error reduction project for Pennsylvania hospitals

*February 11, 2003*

[Independence Blue Cross](#) will provide a \$750,000 grant to a program intended to reduce medical errors at 65 hospitals throughout southeast Pennsylvania, company officials announced yesterday. The grant will complete funding for the \$1.3 million initiative, called the Regional Medication Safety Program for Hospitals, which will help hospitals implement 16 patient safety strategies, including computer physician order entry (CPOE).

Patient safety experts from the [Institute for Safe Medication Practices](#) and [ECRI](#), a not-for-profit health care research firm, will visit each of the hospitals as part of the effort. The team has visited 13 facilities so far and expects to conclude on-site visits by 2004.

Independence officials are encouraging hospitals to adopt CPOE because of research indicating that it could reduce medication errors by verifying dosages and checking for potential drug interactions.

Independence will pay hospitals a bonus worth as much as 4% of their annual Independence reimbursements for satisfying quality improvement benchmarks, including nurse staffing levels and hospital readmissions. Fifteen hospitals currently participate in the program, and it will be expanded to additional facilities as contracts are renegotiated, according to an Independence official (Stark, [Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 2/11).