

# Dynamic Pulse CPSEA Symposium Kicks off TakeCHARGE Campaign for 2022

*Patient Safety & Advocacy group focuses on "5 Steps to Safer Health Care"*

WANTAGH, NY, US, March 22, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In a unique [symposium](#) presented by [Pulse Center for Patient Safety Education & Advocacy](#) on March 18th-19th, a remarkable roster of speakers addressed and interacted with scores of participants interested in improving the safety of medical care. (Medical error is one of the leading causes of death in the US.)

The all-virtual event coincided with Patient Safety Awareness Week, and launched the third year of the [TakeCHARGE](#) Campaign, a social media-based public awareness program started by Pulse in 2020, that encourages everyone to take five basic steps over five months that will help them and their families avoid injury or death from medical treatment.

"This is unlike other conferences I've been to," was a remark often expressed by participants. Attendees mentioned the pragmatic content of speakers' talks and panels, while presenters were impressed by the passion and commitment of their audiences — often patient advocates and patient safety educators — who were encouraged to ask questions and interact.

Each session related to one of the TakeCHARGE: 5 Steps

1. Complete advance directives
2. Keep a medical history and medications list
3. Prepare for doctor visits with notes, symptoms and written questions



**Similar Patient Names Contribute to Errors**

Always confirm address (and date of birth)

- A 58-year-old man named **Alan** Smith arrived at the pharmacy to pick up his prescription for Zofran to treat nausea.
- Once home he took the medicine and went to bed.
- The next morning, he received a text message to pick up his medicine which prompted him to look at the label on the prescription bottle.
- To his surprise it was a prescription for **Allen** Smith

*\*Alan Smith/Allen Smith is a pseudonym to protect patient's identity*

Activate Windows  
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

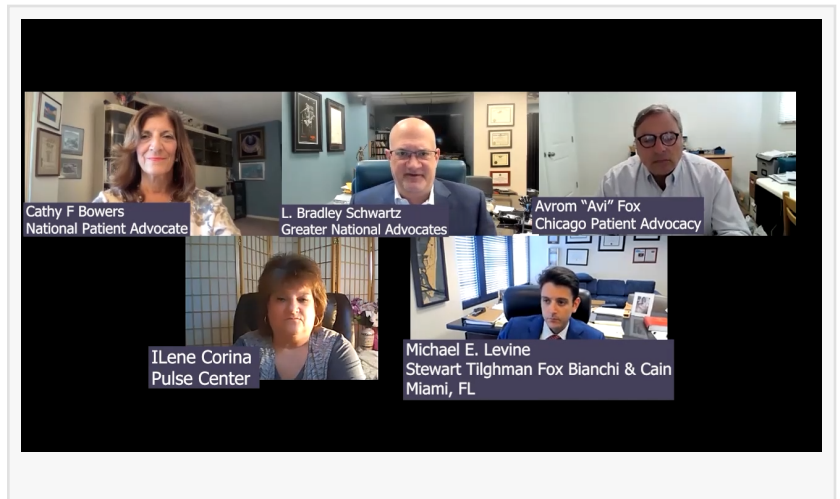
NAME O PUBLIC  
IBUPROFEN 800MG TAB  
TAKE ONE TABLET BY MOUTH  
EVERY 4-6 HRS  
N3669950 32019

Name on the label was **Alan** Smith not **Allen** Smith

- 4.Reduce infections by encouraging hand-washing
5. Use a patient advocate and be an advocate for others

Entering its third year, the TakeCHARGE Campaign was used by The Joint Commission and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to educate their staff. About a dozen leading advocacy groups from around the country also participated in the 2021

Campaign. Sponsors of the symposium included Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, The Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Greater National Advocates, Hofstra University and others.



### Personal stories

“

This was a complete, detailed and focused event about topics that are so important to everyone. The speakers were professional, intelligent and informative in every way.”

*Susan Capurso, East End  
Doula Care*

Part of what made the event unique was that the speakers weren't presenting dry data, they larded their talks with actual stories of real patients. In other cases, it was the survivors of medical injury themselves who told their harrowing personal tales. Said one participant, “These personal stories let us all see how patient safety works — or fails — in the real world.”

Among other topics, the symposium included:

- Medication safety - cautionary tales from the Institute for Safe Medication Practices.
- Living with infection — a survivor's story of multiple post-surgical infections.
- Rapid Response Systems — the history of those crash carts we see in TV hospital dramas, told by one of the technique's pioneers.
- Talking with Your Doctor About COVID
- Advance directives - being prepared if you can't express your wishes.
- Panel discussions involving advocates, attorneys and other stakeholders in patient safety.

Pulse president and Ilene Corina says, “We are grateful for our sponsors and the wonderful planning team of community members who are passionate about this cause of reducing medical injury. We start publicizing Step 1 of this year's TakeCHARGE Campaign — ‘Complete your advance directives’ — early next month.”

An attendee, Susan Capurso of East End Doula Care on Long Island, comments: “This was a

complete, detailed and focused event about topics that are so important to everyone. The speakers were professional, intelligent and informative in every way."

Sofie Schwartz, with symposium sponsor Greater National Advocates, adds, "The TakeCHARGE: 5 Steps to Safer Health Care Symposium was a complete success! It allowed for the growing community of patient advocates to share experiences and knowledge. The Advocate Panel Discussion on Friday was specifically successful in these missions. The panel demonstrated the beauty of independent patient advocacy while also demonstrating how collaborative their work really is."

For more information, please visit:

Web: <https://takecharge.care> and <https://www.pulsecenterforpatientsafety.org>.

Social:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/takechargecampaign/>

<https://twitter.com/TakechargeC>

<https://www.instagram.com/takechargecampaign5steps/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/takecharge-campaign-5160a31a3/>

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