



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **RMF Strategies Launches Team Training Program**

*Integrated Team Training Program Improves Quality and Effectiveness  
of Health Care Teamwork and Practices*

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – April 5, 2005** – RMF Strategies announced the launch of Team Performance *Plus*, an innovative team-training program designed to change the culture of medical units, by building effective teams and improving standard practices in health care.

**Team Performance *Plus* (TPP)**, is an unparalleled train-the-mentor program, which is tailored for individual institutions. The TPP experts, a practicing physician-nurse team, partner with hospital executives and clinicians to begin the program, which consists of three phases: Assessment and Preparation, Training and Implementation, and Follow-Up and Support. “This program is not a one-time consultation, simply offering assessments and recommendations,” said Dr. Edwin Trautman, President of RMF Strategies. “Team Performance *Plus* is an integrated, year-long program. When the institutions commit to the three phases, the probability that team training will provide positive results significantly increases.”

This team training program curriculum was originally developed by the Department of Defense - TeamSTEPPS (Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety), in collaboration with the American Institutes for Research, and was adapted for Obstetrics (OB), and implemented at Boston’s Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), an institution with nearly 5,000 births a year.

Researchers found that a lack of teamwork in the Obstetrics department of BIDMC greatly increased the number of cases involving death or serious, permanent injury. The failure of Labor & Delivery clinicians' ability to communicate occurred in 67% of the cases. Over the course of one month, all 240 staff members in the BIDMC Labor & Delivery Unit were trained using team training. As a result, the high number of OB malpractice claims and suits, drastically decreased by over 50 percent, saving the hospital \$4.9 million.

### **About RMF Strategies**

[RMF Strategies](#) offers evidence-based health care risk management products and solutions based on methods tested with over 25 years of data from leading medical institutions. Products and solutions include state-of-the-art methodologies, software tools, and consulting services to control risk and improve patient safety. RMF Strategies serves customers representing 500 hospitals, 40,000 physicians and 2,400 corporate entities in 40 states and is an operating division of Risk Management Foundation of the Harvard Medical Institutions.

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