

Patient safety struggles and successes – are there lessons we can apply to falls prevention?

Dr Frances Healey, RN, PhD, Deputy Director of Patient Safety (Insight)



September 2017

Aiming to cover

- Some patient safety culture
- Some ideas from Charles Vincent
- Some ideas from Don Berwick

Note that:

- I will touch on areas Julie will cover in more depth
- Some chances to share with your neighbour

Links  @FrancesHealey

LIVE FOR STRONGER FOR LONGER
PREVENT FALLS & FRACTURES



Three Nation Approach To Reducing Harm From Falls



We've moved beyond narrow definitions of safety....



“...avoiding injuries to patients from the care that is intended to help them”

- Institute of Medicine

*“The simplest definition of patient safety is **the prevention of errors and adverse effects** to patients associated with health care.”*

– WHO website

*“Patient safetyis concerned with errors of commission (doing the wrong thing) and **errors of omission (failure to do the right thing)** and is **inextricably linked with the other aspects of quality (effectiveness and patient experience)**”*

- NHS Improvement





Royal College of Physicians | Setting higher standards

A National Audit Report of the 2

Preventable deaths due to problems in care in English acute hospitals: a retrospective case record review study

Helen Hogan¹, Frances Healey², Graham Neale³, Richard Thomson⁴, Charles Vincent⁵, Nick Black⁶

¹Department of Health Services Research & Policy, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London

²National Patient Safety Agency, Agency Centre, London

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⁵Department of Health Services Research & Policy, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London

⁶Healthcare Safety Investigation Centre, London

ABSTRACT Monitoring hospital inpatient mortality is essential to ensure preventable deaths receive accurate digital signals from health care teams. We used a retrospective case record review to assess the extent to which preventable deaths in English acute hospitals were associated with preventable deaths in care. We identified 1000 cases of preventable deaths in care including 546 deaths in hospital and 454 deaths in care. The overall mortality rate was 0.78% (95% CI 0.73 to 0.83), the mortality rate for preventable deaths in care was 0.78% (95% CI 0.73 to 0.83).

Learning from preventable deaths: exploring case record reviewers' narratives using change analysis

Helen Hogan¹, Frances Healey², Graham Neale³, Richard Thomson⁴, Nick Black⁶ and Charles Vincent⁵

¹Department of Health Services Research & Policy, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, 15-17 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9EP, UK

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Abstract To determine if applying change analysis to the narrative reports made by reviewers of hospital deaths increases the utility of the information in the systematic analysis of patient harm.

Introduction Over the last decade, there has been a movement towards developing a more systematic understanding of causes of hospital mortality as part of a range of approaches that can be used to identify preventable

Using targeted risk factor reduction to prevent falls in older in-patients: a randomised controlled trial

FRANCES HEALEY¹, ANDREW MCHAM², ANGLA COOMER³, VICKI ADAMS⁴, DAVID HEALING⁵

¹Department of Elderly Medicine, National Patient Safety Agency, Elderly Medicine, Level 2, 15-17 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9EP, UK

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SYSTEAMIC REVIEW

The effect of bedrails on falls and injury: a systematic review of clinical studies

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²Department of Geriatrics, Medicine, Royal Brompton Hospital, Reading, UK

³Stonham, University of East, Canterbury, UK

⁴Stonham Teaching Primary Care Trust, Worthing, UK

Abstract

Background: Falls and related injuries are a major cause of hospital admission and subsequent disability. Bedrails are commonly used to reduce the risk of falls in hospital inpatients.

Objective: To assess the effectiveness and safety of bedrails in reducing falls and related injuries in hospital inpatients.

Design: Systematic literature review using the principles of QUOROM guidelines.

Setting and Population: All hospital inpatients.

Review Methods: Using the keywords, bedrail, and synonyms, databases were searched from 1980 to 2005. All studies reporting the effect of bedrails on falls and related injuries were included. All data were analysed using random-effects meta-analysis.

Results: 77 papers were included. 34 met the criteria. These bedrail studies identified significant reductions in falls and related injuries in hospital inpatients. However, the use of bedrails was associated with an increase in falls and related injuries in hospital inpatients.

Discussion: It is difficult to perform conventional clinical trials of an intervention already embedded in hospital practice. However, this review concludes that unless direct evidence is available, the use of bedrails should be avoided in hospital inpatients.

Royal College of Physicians

Why FallSafe?
Care bundles to reduce inpatient falls

In partnership with:
NHS Learning Health System | RCGP | RCP | RCPsych | RCPs (Gen) | RCPs (Paed) | RCPs (Psych) | RCPs (Sed) | RCPs (Surg) | RCPs (Trop) | RCPs (Ger) | RCPs (Med) | RCPs (Res) | RCPs (Spec) | RCPs (Gen) | RCPs (Paed) | RCPs (Psych) | RCPs (Sed) | RCPs (Surg) | RCPs (Trop) | RCPs (Ger) | RCPs (Med) | RCPs (Res) | RCPs (Spec)



NPSA National Patient Safety Agency

Slips, trips and falls in hospital

PSO/3

NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

PATIENT SAFETY FIRST

Falls: assessment and prevention in older people

June 2013

The 'How to' Guide for Reducing harm from falls



<http://britishgeriatricsociety.wordpress.com/2013/12/19/fallsafe-are-culture-clashes-good-for-us/>

Safer Healthcare – strategies for the real world (free e-book)



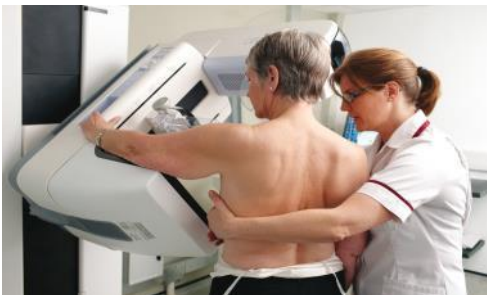
Ultra-safe



Adaptive



Ultra-adaptive



Ultra-safe (uniformity + reliability)

Ultra-safe



Adaptive



Ultra-adaptive



Adaptive

Ultra-safe



Adaptive



Ultra-adaptive



Ultra-adaptive (heroic)

Ultra-safe



Adaptive



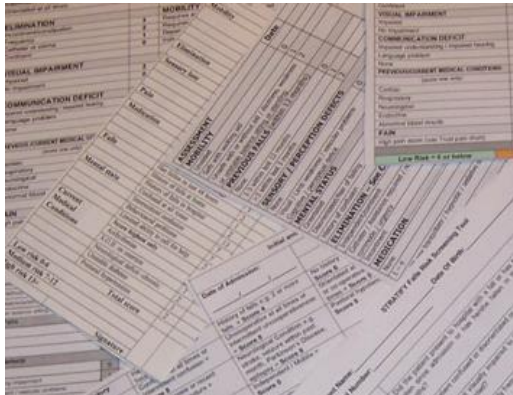
Ultra-adaptive



Falls risk assessment

Falls risk prediction scores (numbers)

Prompts to consider manageable risk factors



<p>Medication. Check for medication associated with falls risk, e.g. anti-depressants, sleeping tablets, sedation, anti-psychotics. Ask doctor to review (do not stop abruptly).</p>	<p><i>On temazepam every night for some years - to review at ward round.</i></p>
<p>MDT. Ensure medical staff, physiotherapist, OT, social worker, etc aware of the patient's risk, frequency, nature, seriousness of falls (local protocol or pathway would cover expected actions by MDT members, e.g. mini-mental, osteoporosis check, mobility aid review).</p>	<p><i>SHO aware. Physio referral sent 3/2/16. OT referral sent 3/2/16. Need on discharge plan.</i></p>
<p>Footwear. Check footwear for secure fit, non-slip soles, no trailing laces. Ask relatives to supply safer replacement or supply new slippers from ward store. Consider slipper socks in bed for patients at risk of falling at night.</p>	<p><i>Backless slippers - not safe. Daughter cannot get replacement until Saturday. Provided with new slippers from ward store.</i></p>
<p>Place. Nurse in most appropriate place on ward for their needs, e.g. close to nurses' station, close to toilet, quietest area (considering other patients' needs as well).</p>	<p><i>In Bay 3 nearest toilet and within earshot of nurses' station.</i></p>
<p>Lighting. Consider lighting best for patient, e.g. bedside lamp left on.</p>	<p><i>Will have overhead lamp on low overnight.</i></p>



Ultra-safe



Adaptive

<http://britishgeriatriciansociety.wordpress.com/2013/05/16/all-down-to-numbers/>

- Miss A was a retired ballet teacher aged 79
- Admitted after a series of emergency calls following falls at home. Ambulance staff say her speech was slurred and think she may have been drinking.
- Has a spectacular black eye, but no other injuries.
- Brings in a carrier bag with a range of prescribed medication, sleeping tablets, and herbal remedies
- Appears very unsteady on her feet but refuses to relinquish her steel-tipped ebony walking stick for a frame
- Will ring for help before mobilising, but considers three seconds too long to wait, and so sets off without staff
- Deflects any attempts to formally assess her memory or self-care skills; *'maybe tomorrow, darling, I'm just too tired'*.
- Is extremely thin but says she always has been, rejects everything on the menu except toast





Prevailing Theories Will Not Work

- The workforce is not trying hard enough – lean on them
- Incentives will fix it – Rig payment to force changes
- Regulations will fix it – Tighten controls - Enforce goals
- Measurement is a primary driver – Measure and report
- Formal experiments will point the way – Use RCT's
- More technologies will solve it – Build stuff
- "If only professionals could seize the controls..."
- Require spread

NOT.....	INSTEAD...
"Try Harder"	"We Are in This Together"
"Pay for Performance"	"Pride and Joy in Work"
"Follow the Rules"	"Use Principles... Modify as Needed"
"Measure and Report"	"Measure to Learn"
"Randomized Trials"	"Focused Empiricism"
"More"	"Less"
"Doctors Rule"	"Only a Team Can Succeed"
"Do What Worked Before"	"Customize Every Step"

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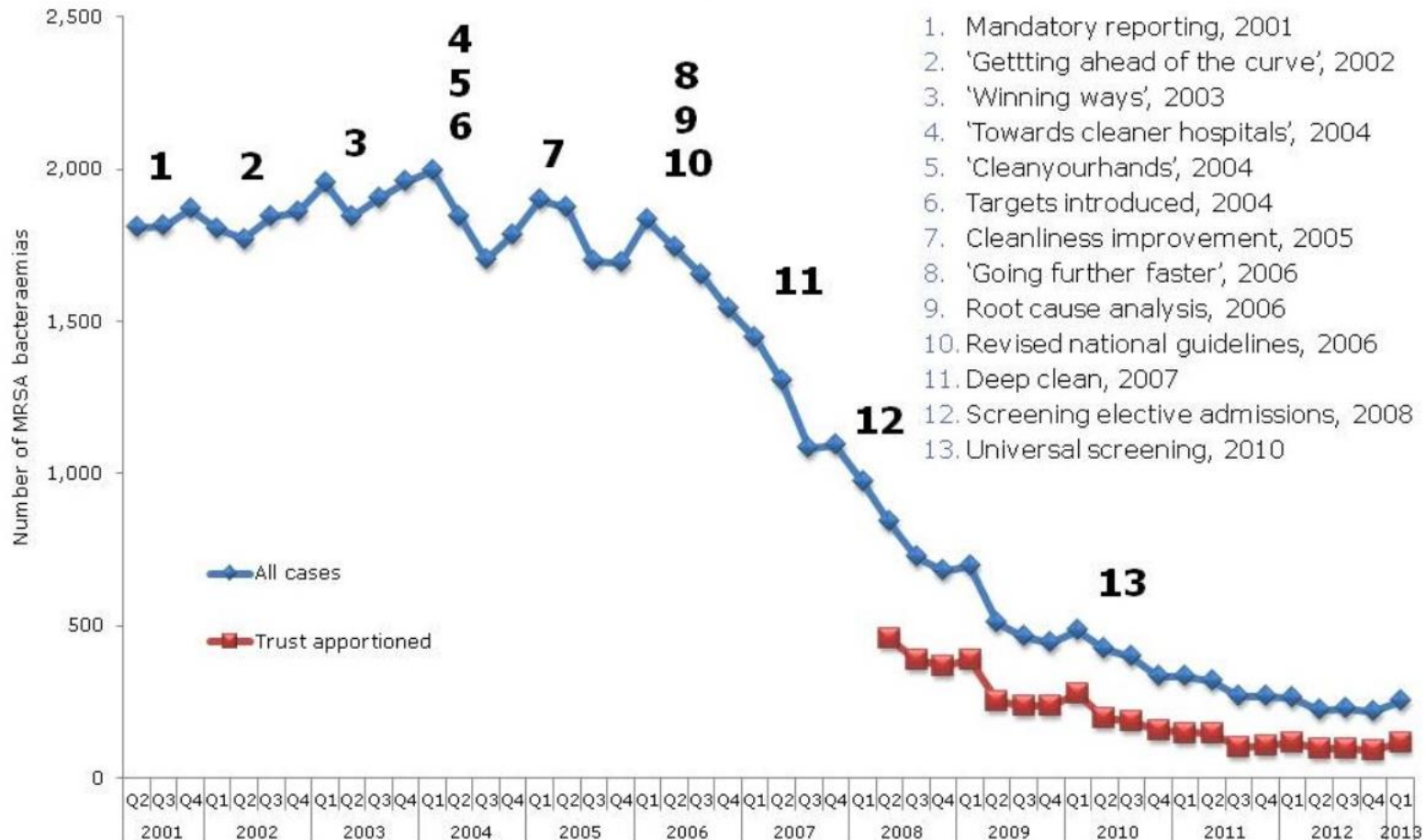
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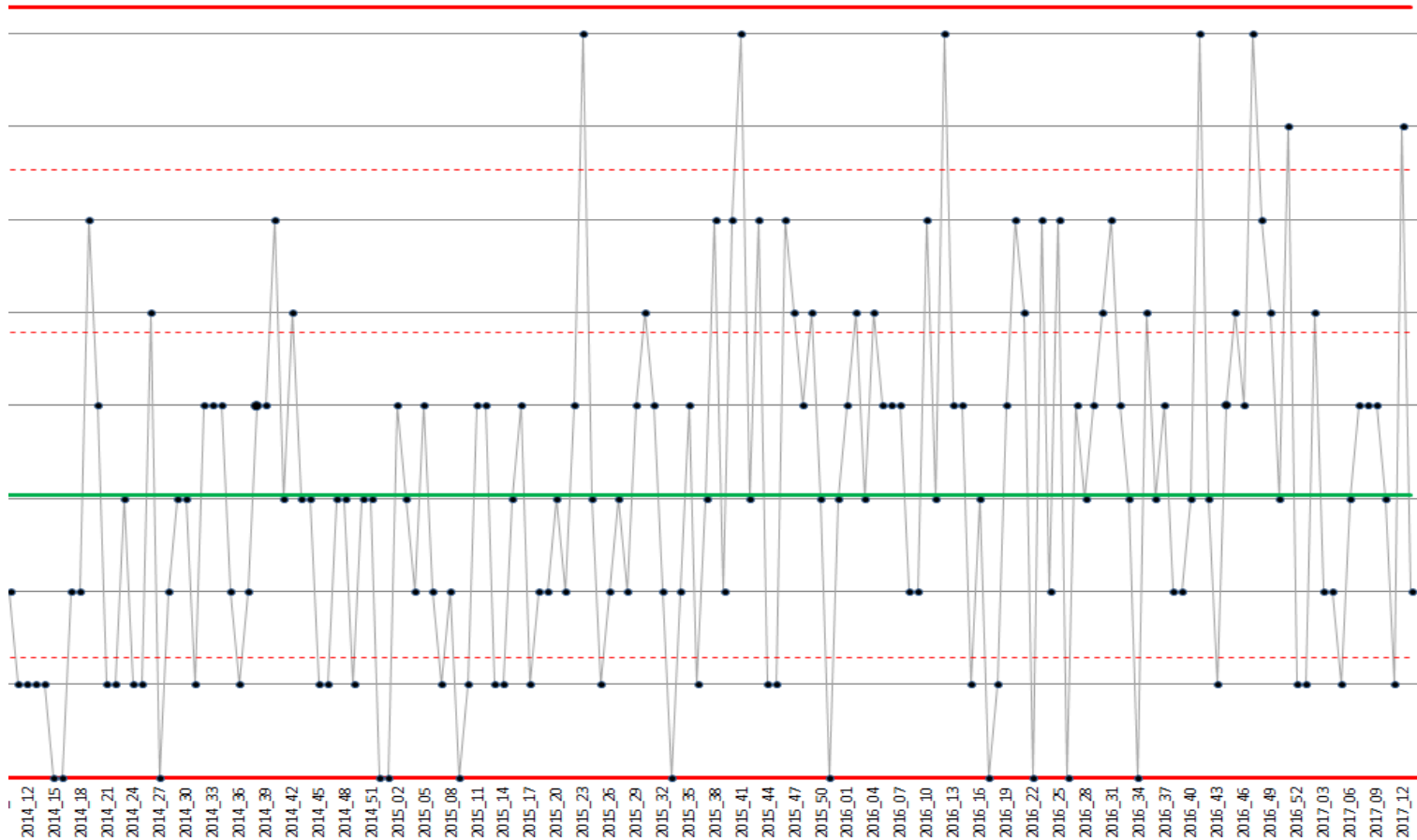
Past approaches	Don's proposals
The workforce is not trying hard enough – set targets & penalties	It's a shared challenge
Incentives will fix it – change the payment system to incentivise	Pride and joy in the work
Regulation will fix it – create rules, inspect and enforce	Principles not detailed procedures
Measurement drives improvement – measure more	Measurement informs improvement – measure less
RCTs will show the way – make research & systematic review more rigorous	Evaluate real-life interventions and realistic evidence synthesis
Technology holds the answer	People hold the answer (and technology helps them)
Clinical (medical?) leadership is the key	We need the team (the whole team)
Require spread – it worked for them, don't reinvent the wheel	Own and adapt

Sanctions succeeded? MRSA



1. Mandatory reporting, 2001
2. 'Getting ahead of the curve', 2002
3. 'Winning ways', 2003
4. 'Towards cleaner hospitals', 2004
5. 'Cleanyourhands', 2004
6. Targets introduced, 2004
7. Cleanliness improvement, 2005
8. 'Going further faster', 2006
9. Root cause analysis, 2006
10. Revised national guidelines, 2006
11. Deep clean, 2007
12. Screening elective admissions, 2008
13. Universal screening, 2010

Sanctions failed? (Surgical Never Events)



A shared challenge

The Five Year Forward View

There are three areas where fundamental change is necessary to sustain the NHS in England. These areas each have a significant and widening gap between current resources and the demands on the service. With action and support from the NHS, the government and the public, these gaps can be closed.

The health and wellbeing gap

There is a significant gap between the health and wellbeing of the population and the demands on the service.

Many of these demands, such as those from the ageing population, are growing.

Our national diet is unhealthy, leading to obesity and related conditions.

Our physical activity levels are low, leading to a range of health problems.

Our mental health services are under-resourced and struggling to meet demand.

Our health and care workforce is under-resourced and struggling to meet demand.

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The care and quality gap

People are living longer and need to spend an age of health services over a longer period of time.

Care is fragmented across different organisations.

There is a divide between primary care, community services and hospitals.

People have limited funding for primary care to meet their needs and are struggling to meet demand.

There is a need to deliver care with regard to what will be needed in the future.

Share innovative ways of working and care with research to develop new ideas.

Make sure NHS staff are fully trained to support the changes.

More ways of working - greater efficiency.

Better ability to meet the changing needs on NHS services.

The funding and efficiency gap

There is a significant gap between the resources available and the demands on the service.

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A sustainable NHS that continues to be tax-funded, free at the point of use and that is fully equipped to meet the evolving needs of its patients, now and in the future.

www.nhs.uk/5yfv



Mind the (generational) gap

NHS
Health Education England



'Baby Boomers'	'Generation X'	'Generation Y'	'Generation Z'
1946-1964	1965-1980	1981-1994	1995-2010
Motivated and hard working; define self-worth by work and accomplishments.	Practical self-starters, but work-life balance important.	Ambitious, with high career expectations; need mentorship and reassurance.	Highly innovative, but will expect to be informed. Personal freedom is essential.
25% of the NHS workforce	40% of the NHS workforce	35% of the NHS workforce	<5% of the NHS workforce

Jones K, Warren A, Davies A. 2015. *Mind the Gap: Exploring the needs of early career nurses and midwives in the workplace*. Summary report from

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Rewards succeeded: AMR

News story

Helping GPs to cut antibiotic prescriptions by 2.6m in just one year

Our national Patient Safety Team has helped GPs in the NHS to reduce how often patients are being prescribed antibiotics unnecessarily, cutting the number of prescriptions down by over 2.6 million in one year alone.

The team worked with Public Health England and NHS England to set goals and share data on antibiotic prescribing to encourage improvements across the country.

The result: we've seen an overall reduction in antibiotic prescriptions of 7.3% in just one year. This significantly exceeds the 1% reduction target set for the NHS to reduce the use of antibiotics for infections where they are not usually required or for conditions where antibiotics don't work.

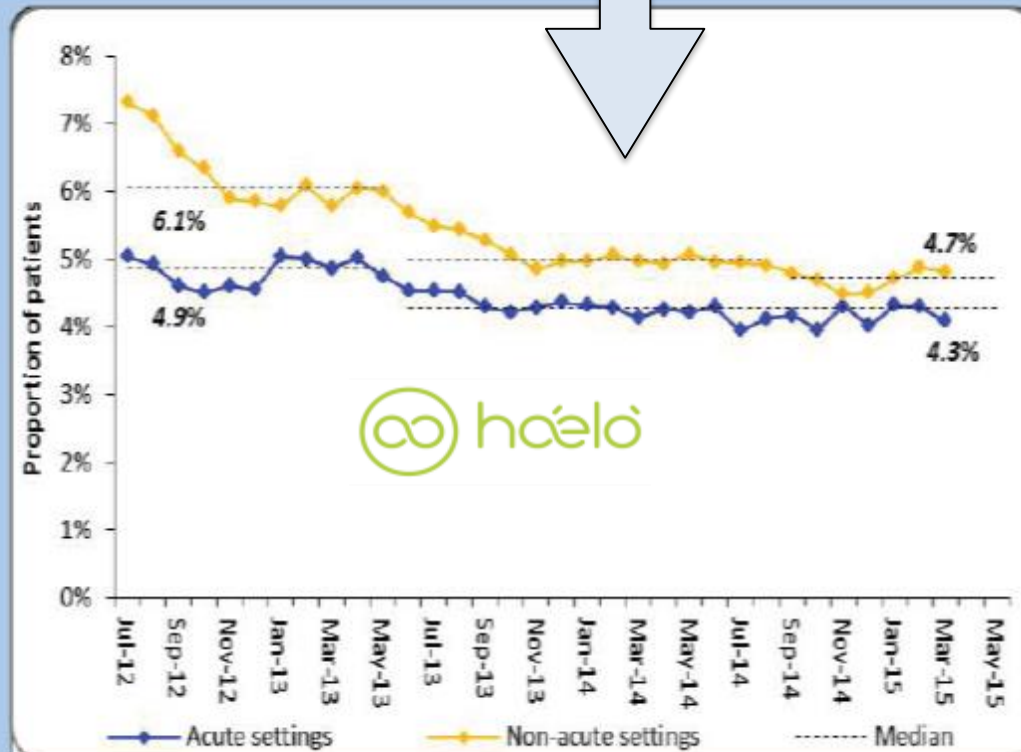
Dr Mike Durkin, National Director for Patient Safety at NHS Improvement, said:

"This fantastic result achieved in just one year is testament to the huge efforts of GPs, pharmacists and local commissioners. Healthcare staff across the country should be congratulated for this, and our Patient Safety Team will continue to work with them and with our partners at Public Health England and NHS England to bring these figures down even further."

Rewards confused the picture: Safety Thermometer and pressure ulcers

SAFETY THERMOMETER
(pressure ulcers grade 2+ prevalence)
48% captured -TVS skin survey suggests 'true' figure in acute settings **7.1%** late 2014

"...policy turbulence a major influence"



BMJ Open

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BMJ Open 2016;6:e011886 doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2016-011886

Health services research

Multimethod study of a large-scale programme improve patient safety using a harm-free care approach

Maxine Power¹, Liz Brewster², Gareth Parry³, Ailsa Brotherton¹, Joel Minion⁴, Piotr Ozieranski⁵, Sarah McNicol⁶, Abigail Harrison¹, Mary Dixon-Woods⁷

[Author Affiliations](#)

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Professor Mary Dixon-Woods; md753@medschl.cam.ac.uk

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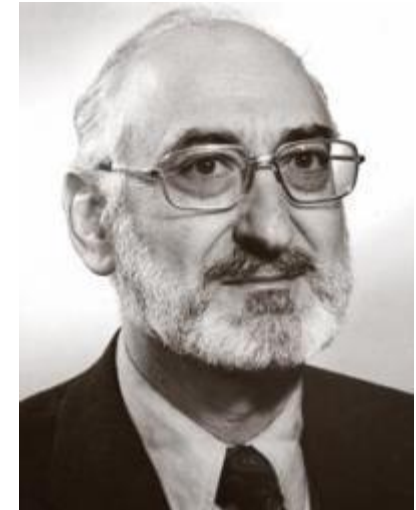
Published 22 September 2016



“...at the core of [healthcare] are two human beings who have agreed to be in a relationship where one is trying to help relieve the suffering of another, which is love.”

Don Berwick ‘Money-driven medicine’ 2010

“Systems awareness and systems design are important for health professionals, but they are not enough.....ultimately, the secret of quality is love.”



Professor Avedis Donabedian

Love isn't always easy....



Joy or more everyday thankfulness?

VIEWPOINT



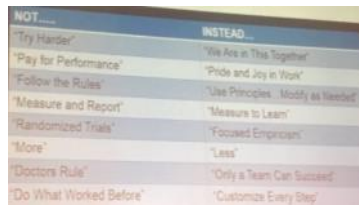
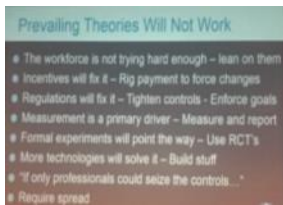
Positive deviance: a different approach to achieving patient safety

Rebecca Lawton,^{1,2} Natalie Taylor,^{2,3} Robyn Clay-Williams,³ Jeffrey Braithwaite³

“The consistent delivery of well-executed safe care under typically difficult circumstances tends to go unrecognised”



A particular challenge for falls prevention?



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'Inadequate' Hinchingsbrooke hospital to be put in special measures

Care Quality Commission publishes scathing report revealing catalogue of serious failings at privately run hospital



Hinchingsbrooke hospital in Cambridgeshire. Photograph: Terry Harris/Rex Features

Hinchingsbrooke hospital will be placed into special measures after a report by the [Care Quality Commission \(CQC\)](#) revealed a catalogue of serious failings at the privately run hospital, including in its A&E unit, which put patients in danger and delayed their pain relief.

Virginia Mason is denied full accreditation after lapses

Originally published June 21, 2016 at 2:44 pm | Updated June 22, 2016 at 12:29 pm



The Virginia Mason Medical Center complex, on Seattle's First Hill, was visited May 20 by the Joint Commission, which inspects hospitals. (Greg Gilbert/The Seattle Times)

Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle was found out of compliance in nearly 30 areas during a surprise visit in May by the Joint Commission, a nonprofit group that accredits hospitals across the nation

NHS

Improvement



NHS

Improvement



Prevailing Theories Will Not Work

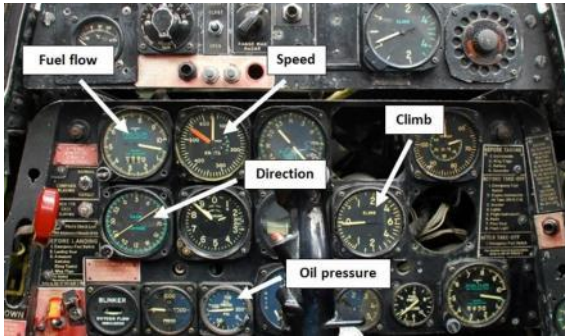
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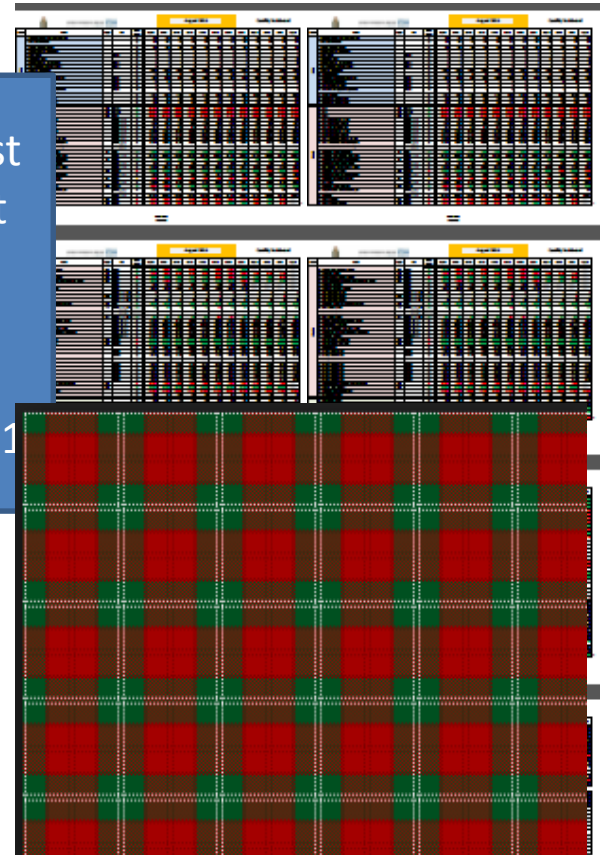


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More measures ≠ better measures



Anytown trust board report
Quality Dashboard pages 270-381



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

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Perspective

Restoring Trust in VA Health Care

Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H., and Ashish K. Jha, M.D., M.P.H.
N Engl J Med 2014; 371:295-297 | July 24, 2014 | DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp140685

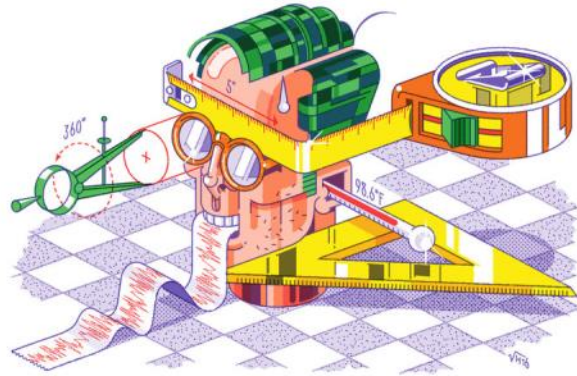
Comments open through July 30, 2014

Article References Citing Articles (2) Comments (4)

It has been nearly 20 years since the Veterans Health Administration that oversees the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health sweeping reforms that markedly improved quality, boosted at Recent revelations about long wait times for veterans compo administrators make it clear that reforms are again needed. of wait-time data at more than 40 facilities indicate a serious

How Measurement Fails Doctors and Teachers

By ROBERT M. WACHTER JAN. 16, 2016



Victor Hieckman

A cartoon illustration of a doctor's head, which is a yellow sphere with a face. The head is surrounded by various measurement tools: a green and yellow measuring tape is wrapped around its forehead, a yellow ruler is placed across its eyes, a green and yellow protractor is positioned behind its ear, and a yellow and red thermometer is inserted into its mouth. The head is sitting on a checkered floor. The cartoon is signed 'Victor Hieckman' in the bottom right corner.

Measurement effort & time compared to improvement effort & time?

“If you’re not measuring, how will you know if you’re improving?”



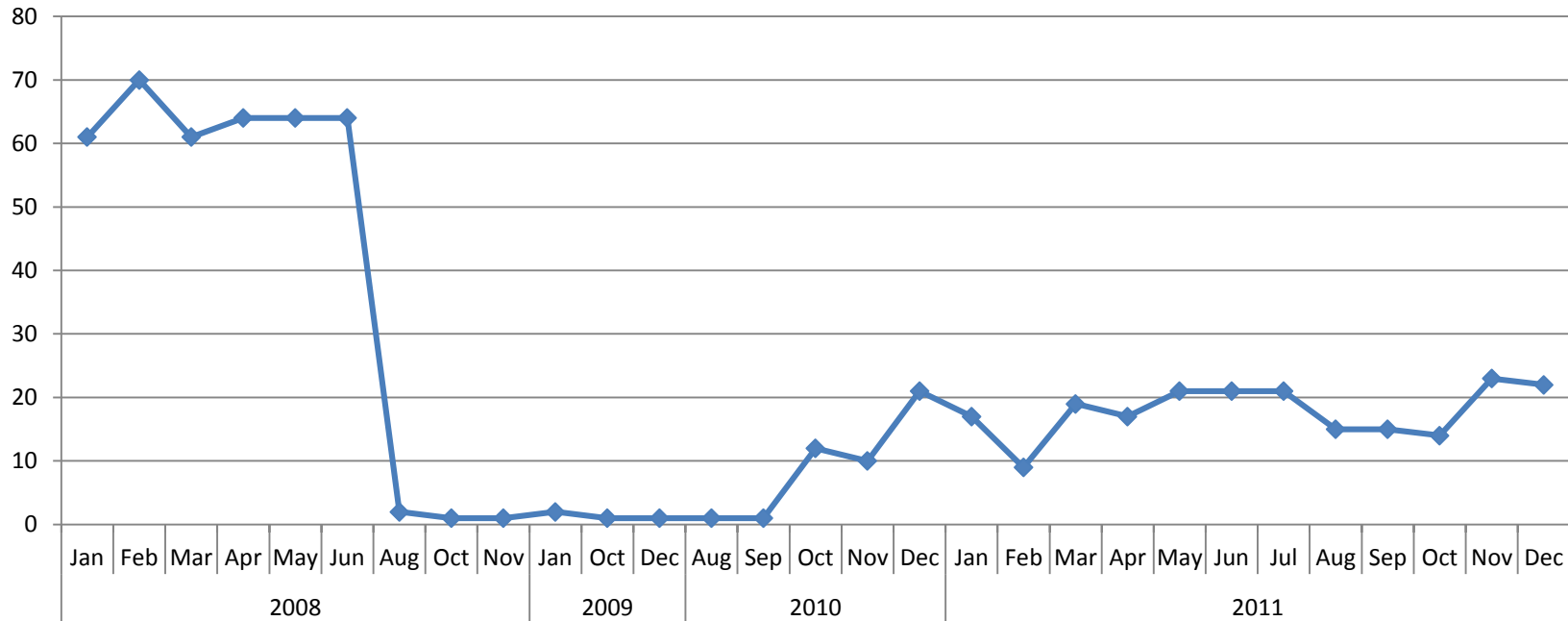
Does everything have to be measured?



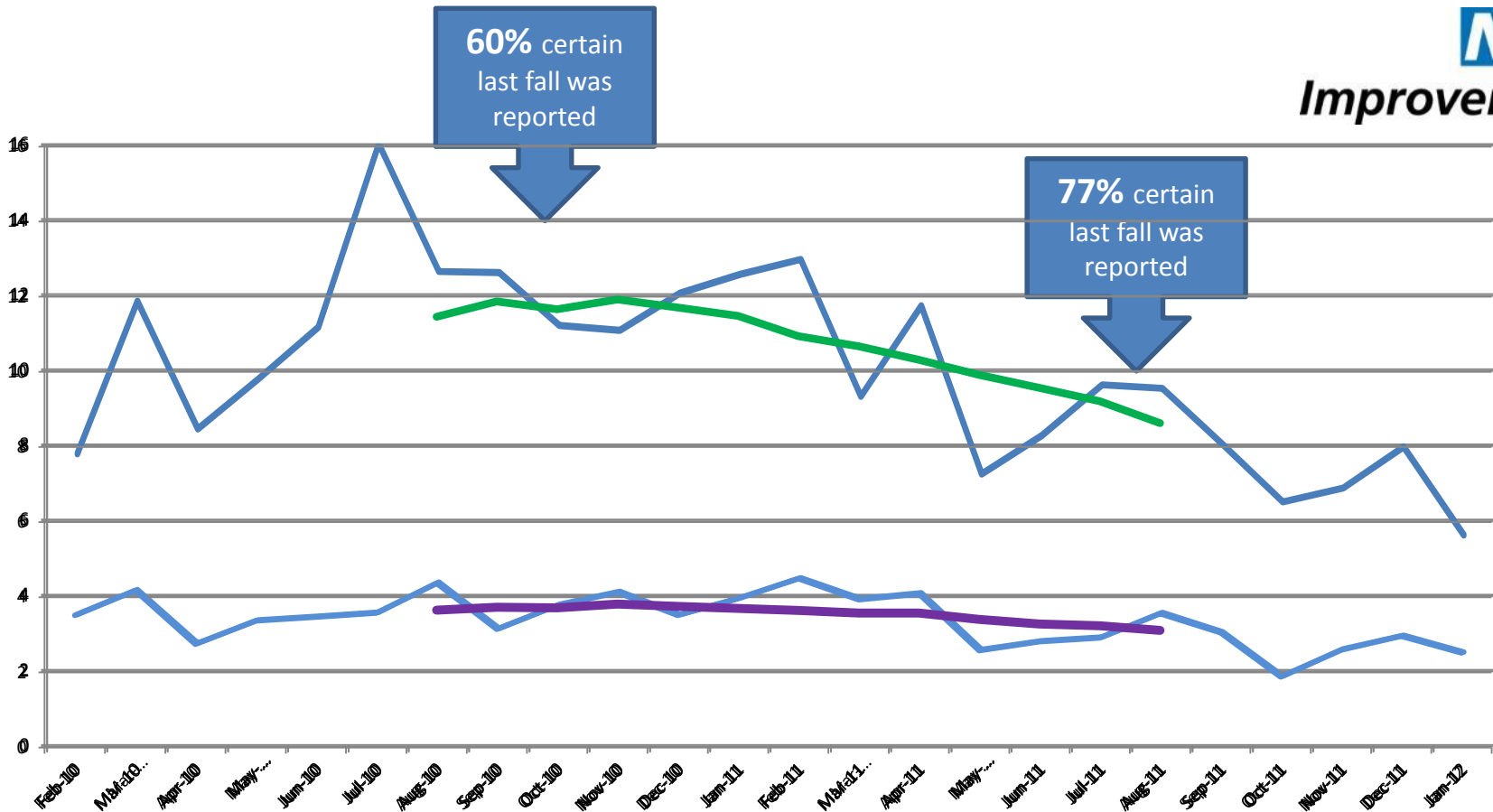
Pause for a quick conversation with your neighbour:

- **Think of an aspect of healthcare that you believe has improved since your career began**
- **Even though not measured, could you convince a reasonable judge & jury that improvement has occurred?**

We don't always need a statistician ...



This chart shows reported falls per month in a 500 bed hospital – the high point of scale is 80, bottom is zero



- Frequent data or accurate data can be a trade-off
- Not so much ‘good enough’ as ‘do you know how good it is?’ – because you can’t measure changes in quality if you are concurrently improving data quality and completeness

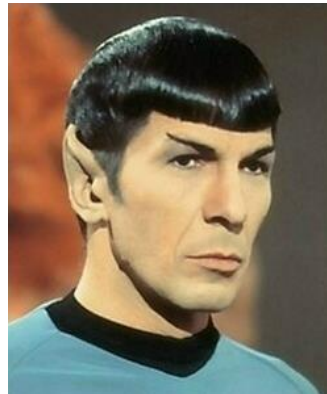


More on measurement...



Culture and behaviour in the English National Health Service: overview of lessons from a large multimethod study

Mary Dixon-Woods,¹ Richard Baker,¹ Kathryn Charles,² Jeremy Dawson,³ Gabi Jerzembek,⁴ Graham Martin,¹ Imelda McCarthy,⁴ Lorna McKee,⁵ Joel Minion,¹ Piotr Ozieranski,⁶ Janet Willars,¹ Patricia Wilkie,⁷ Michael West⁸



<https://www.slideshare.net/DrFrancesHealey/2015-july06-psc-frances-healey-ps-data-or-ps-intelligence-30-mins>

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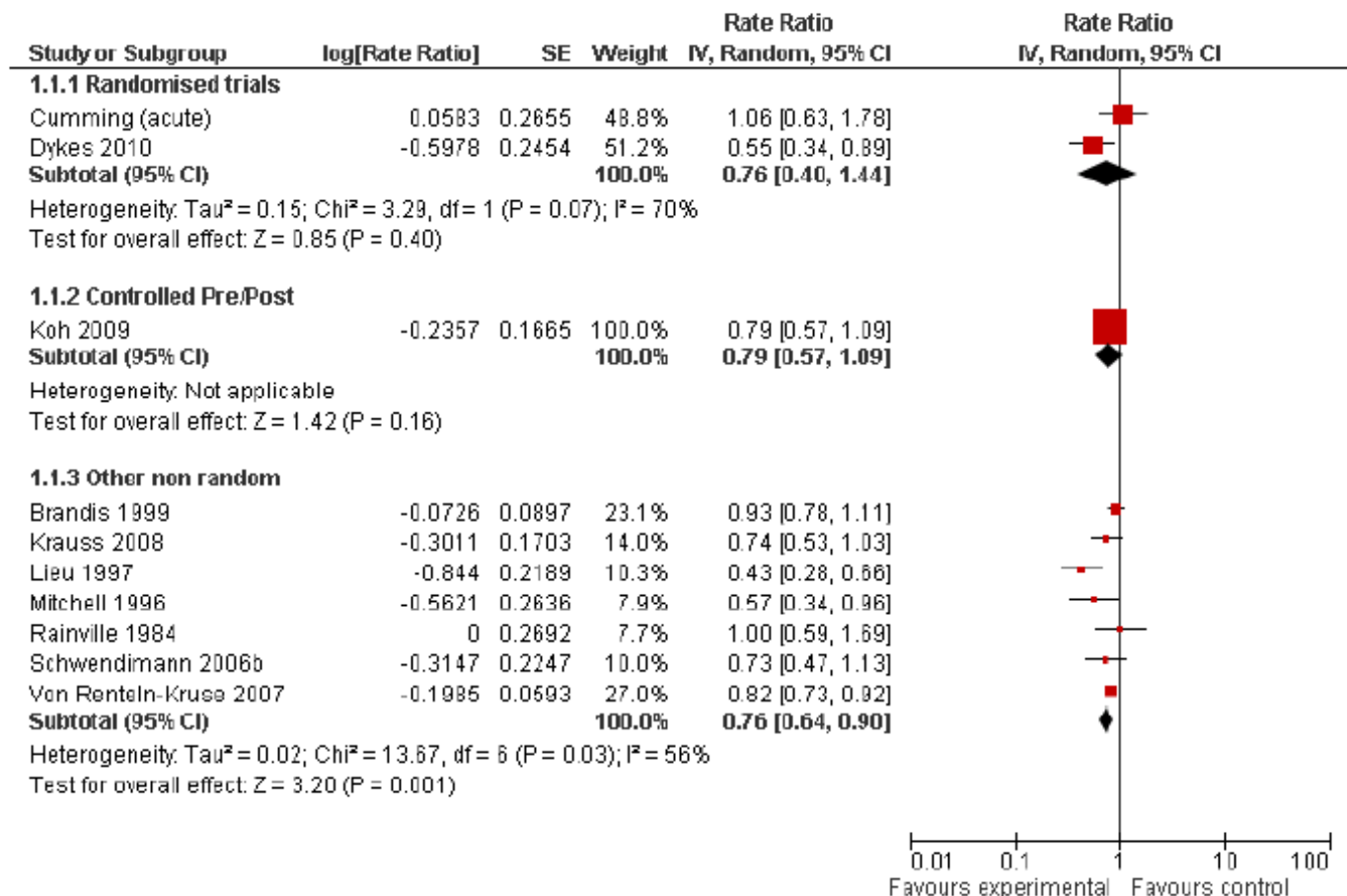
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Require spread – it worked for them, don't reinvent the wheel	Own and adapt



Inpatient intervention: Forest plots (multifactorial interventions)

Acute Setting

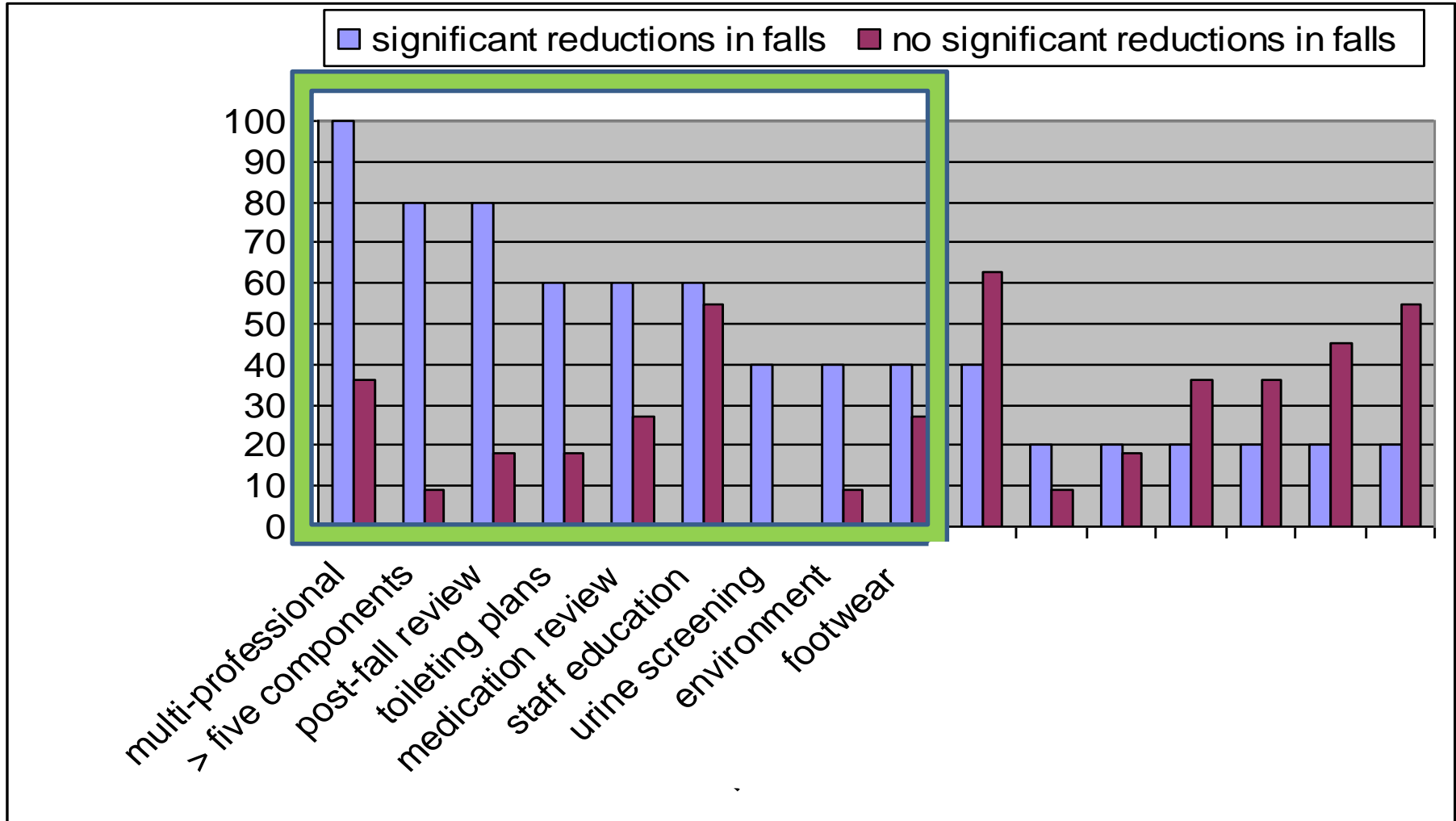
Falls – incidence rate ratio



Adaptive



Ultra-safe



Adaptive



Age and Ageing Advance Access published December 8, 2013

Age and Ageing 2013, 41, 1-7
doi:10.1093/ageing/afh190

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Falls prevention in hospitals and mental health units: an extended evaluation of the FallSafe quality improvement project

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- ⁵University Hospitals Birmingham, Birmingham, UK
- ⁶Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, UK
- ⁷Southern Health, Southampton, UK



Halving broken hips in public hospitals – the Aotearoa New Zealand experience

www.hqsc.govt.nz
newzealand.govt.nz

The problem

Two patients in our public hospitals fall and broke their hip every week in 2012. By 2016, that number has nearly halved.

The results

Reductions in harm from falls and value for recovery

The approach

The Health Quality & Safety Commission's role

An integrated and sustainable approach

- F**ocus on the problem and impact of falls at national and system level
- A**ssess and understand falls and why falls occur
- L**ead reducing harm from falls at strategic, regulatory and cultural level
- L**ink and partner with public, tertiary and other organisations recognising this is a community problem
- S**hare what works: collaborate to improve the quality of care for all those at risk of falling

The future

- keeping the evidence up to date
- ensuring sustainability and spread
- continuing to promote – recognising the annual 'April Falls' awards
- continuing a broader 'health of older people' focus with other agencies and across sectors



Barker A et al 2016 6-Pack programme to decrease falls injuries in acute hospitals: cluster randomised controlled trial. *BMJ* 2016;352:h6781

But without the rigour of RCT design and execution would the negative results have been believed?

Ultra-safe



<http://www.anzfallsprevention.org/conference-wrap-up/>

Another example of realistic evidence synthesis: do bedrails increase the risk of falls & injury?

AFTER REDUCTION:	Falls (% change)	Injuries (% change)	Serious inj. (number)	Statistically significant?
Si, 1999	+61%	<i>No change</i>	+1	Yes (falls ↑)
Hoffman, 2003	-7%	-2%	+1	No
Capezuti, 2007	↓ 46% int. ↓ 38% cont.	~ ~	2 → 1 7 → 4	<i>No sig difs</i>
Brown, 1997	+118%	~	~	Yes (falls ↑)
Hanger, 1999	+25%	+3%	+1*	Yes (falls ↑)

MENTAL STATE	Patient is confused and disorientated	Use bedrails with care	Bedrails NOT recommended	Bedrails NOT recommended
	Patient is drowsy	Bedrails recommended	Use bedrails with care	Bedrails NOT recommended
	Patient is orientated and alert	Bedrails recommended	Bedrails recommended	Bedrails NOT recommended
	Patient is unconscious	Bedrails recommended	N/A	N/A
		Patient is very immobile (bedfast or hoist dependant)	Patient can mobilise, but only with help from staff	Patient can mobilise without help from staff
MOBILITY				

Mrs Green is very frail, has poor hearing and eyesight, and limited mobility that means she can manage only a few steps with a walking frame, and probably has at least moderately impaired memory. She has been getting out of bed at night to use the toilet without calling the nurses but has nearly fallen on the way, and her husband is desperately worried she will fall. He asks the team to put bedrails on the bed. He knows she is unlikely to get around or over the bedrails because of her frailty so will have to call the nurses when wanting to get out of bed. Mrs Green agrees with her husband but the nurses are unsure if she has really understood.

Pause for a quick conversation with your neighbour:

- What would you do?

MENTAL STATE	Patient is confused and disorientated	Use bedrails with care	Bedrails NOT recommended	Bedrails NOT recommended
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MOBILITY				



Adaptive



OPINION

Nursin' USA - Why do UK nurses consider restraints unacceptable?

19 June, 2010

Our resident American nurse Sara Morgan wonders why the UK, with such a focus on patient safety, considers even minimal restraint unacceptable?



Physically restraining fellow human beings is a practice generally frowned upon. Restraints are reserved for criminals, those suspected of being criminals and particularly adventurous fancy-dress costumes. In healthcare, we are (thankfully) long past the days when psychiatric or unruly medical patients were tied to their beds, the wall or each other as a way of maintaining order. Many activities that we nurses effortlessly navigate on a daily basis such as patients complaining, declining medication or questioning a doctor's decision, were previously grounds for the application of restraints. Isn't it fantastic that we have evolved beyond such crude methods of interacting with patients?



RELATED ARTICLES

- UK nurses do care deeply about patient safety – which is why they don't use restraint vests
13 July 2010
- Last offices neglected in over half of hospital deaths
11 May 2010
- Osteoporosis and fragility

But...

We have an enormous problem with patient falls. We've all seen the statistics: thousands of falls per year, resulting in hundreds of injuries, fractures and even deaths. According to the literature, about 1/3 of falls are caused by patient

OPINION

UK nurses do care deeply about patient safety – which is why they don't use restraining vests

13 July, 2010

Frances Healey on the use of restraint vests and why the UK is lucky to have avoided introducing them.



• This article is in response to [Nursin' USA - Why do UK nurses consider restraints unacceptable?](#)



The consequences of a fall in hospital can be severe, and the risk of falls and injury are a great cause of anxiety to nurses who want to keep their patients safe. But advocating that nurses in the UK should copy their American counterparts by tying patients to their beds or chairs with restraining vests is not the way forward. The Royal College of Nursing in their guidance on restraint (RCN, 2008) state that "Vest, belt or cuff devices specifically designed to stop people getting out of beds or chairs are in relatively common use in hospital and care home settings in many countries outside the UK, including in Europe, the USA and Australia. These devices are not acceptable in the UK."

RELATED ARTICLES

- Nursin' USA - Why do UK nurses consider restraints unacceptable?
19 June 2010
- Antipsychotic use in dementia
16 November 2009

Prevailing Theories Will Not Work

- The workforce is not trying hard enough – lean on them
- Incentives will fix it – Rig payment to force changes
- Regulations will fix it – Tighten controls - Enforce goals
- Measurement is a primary driver – Measure and report
- Formal experiments will point the way – Use RCT's
- More technologies will solve it – Build stuff
- "If only professionals could seize the controls..."
- Require spread

NOT.....	INSTEAD.....
"Try Harder"	"We Are in This Together"
"Pay for Performance"	"Pride and Joy in Work"
"Follow the Rules"	"Use Principles - Modify as Needed"
"Measure and Report"	"Measure to Learn"
"Randomized Trials"	"Focused Empower"
"More"	"Less"
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Past approaches	Don's proposals
The workforce is not trying hard enough – fix targets and penalties	It's a shared challenge
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The safe use of ultra low beds | Signal

Reference number	1309
Issue date	14 February 2011
Type	Signal

This Signal is about using ultra low beds safely and appropriately.

A sample incident reads:

"Patient has rolled off High/Low bed with crash mat in place and bed at lowest height. Banged his head on the bottom corner of the locker. Cut to right of head bleeding profusely. Wound covered by dressing pads with pressure to staunch flow....."

Ultra low beds can help to prevent harm from falls - particularly for patients with delirium who are at risk of falling out of bed, but who cannot be given bedrails as they might try to climb over them (see [NPSA bedrail guidance](#)). However, ultra low beds need to be used safely and appropriately.

A search of the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) database of all incidents reported from 1 November 2003 to 24 June 2010 identified a series of patient safety incidents related to the use of ultra low beds. These included:

- injuries from floor-level furniture or fittings such as radiators, pipes, or lockers (including one serious burn);
- ultra low beds placed close to a wall but not flush with it, creating potential for asphyxial entrapment if the patient slipped between the side of the mattress and the wall (see [MHRA bedrail guidance](#));
- ultra low beds left at working height in error, leading to falls from height
- patients who appeared to have tripped over crash mats used beside the ultra low bed (including three fractured hips).

Some reports suggested ultra low beds were seen as a universal falls prevention solution and were therefore provided inappropriately for mobile patients (see [RCN restraint guidance](#)). Additionally, some reports suggested that ultra low beds had been used with bedrails raised, negating their purpose.

It is important to note that even when ultra low beds were used correctly in the lowest position, some patients still sustained serious injuries. These included fractured hip and intracranial injury. As a result, it is important that even falls from ultra low beds are taken seriously (see the Rapid Response Report, [Essential care after an inpatient fall](#)).

Local guidance, training and specialist advice should be provided to help staff to use ultra low beds as safely and appropriately as possible.
Please contact us with your initiatives to reduce risks in these areas.

“ the alarm was brilliant – after we’d been using it for a few days he didn’t even try to stand up any more.”

Ward sister, overheard at a conference



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STEPPING ON

Stepping On © Clemson & Swann

Halving broken hips in public hospitals - the Aotearoa New Zealand experience

The problem

The results

The approach

The Health Quality & Safety Commission's role

The future

Royal College of Physicians Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme (FFAP)

National audit of inpatient falls Audit report 2015

active & HEALTHY



The whole team....



Can I ask who is in the room today?

Pause for a quick conversation with your neighbour:

- Tell them about a time a colleague not from your own discipline, or a patient's family/whanau, or patient taught you something you use in falls prevention

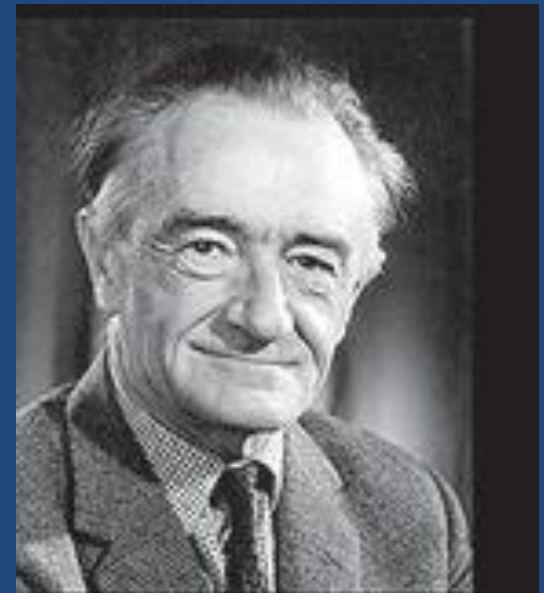
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“The results at that stage showed a slight numerical advantage for those who had been treated at home. It was of course completely insignificant statistically.”

“I rather wickedly compiled two reports, one reversing the numbers of deaths on the two sides of the trial. As we were going into committee, in the anteroom, I showed some cardiologists the results.....”

“.....they were vociferous in their abuse: ‘Archie’, they said, ‘we always thought you were unethical. You must stop the trial at once...’

“I let them have their say for some time and then apologised and gave them the true results, challenging them to say, as vehemently, that coronary care units should be stopped immediately.

“There was dead silence and I felt rather sick because they were, after all, my medical colleagues.”

Professor Archibald Cochrane & Max Blythe *One Man's Medicine* (1989) p.211

Cognitive dissonance

- We have a strong need for our personal beliefs and our personal actions to chime
- The discomfort we feel when they don't is 'cognitive dissonance'
- Usually a force for good – creating our own 'wheel' means we move heaven and earth to make it turn
- Sometimes a negative - if we believe we are part of effective, motivated, caring teams, who have introduced a well thought-out change, it is very hard to also simultaneously believe:
 - We haven't achieved real improvements in safety
 - We might be less safe than peers



<http://britishgeriatricsociety.wordpress.com/2013/05/16/all-down-to-numbers/>

ED checklists – steady spread example

Emergency Department Safety Checklist		Patient Label Here...	
Date _____		Time Booked in _____	
Action	Yes	Initials	Comments
Assessment/Triage			
Vital signs measured + NEWS recorded			
ECG recorded (within 20 minutes)			
ECG reviewed by Dr (within 30 minutes - time on ECG)			
Undressed and gown			
Wristband			
Pain score assessed			
Analgesia administered (if appropriate)			
Infection control screening			
Septis suspected (Temp +36° or +38°C, HR +90 or 98 + 20)			
IV access + care plan			
Bedside tests			
Imaging (Stroke, NCF within 1 hour)			
Specific Pathways Triggered (see box 1)			
PFC informs CST - specialty bed required			
Pathways commenced for: Stroke, DKA, NCF, GI Bleed, Septis			
1st hour completion time			
Vital signs measured + NEWS recorded			
Pain score assessed			
Analgesia administered (if necessary)			
Need of care assessed			
Patented has dementia (This is not commenced)			
Refreshments offered (if not NBM)			
Pressure Area Care			
Assessment undertaken			
Care plan commenced (as appropriate)			
Patient good to go			
Patient ready for transfer			
Consent/bed confirmed			
2nd hour completion time			
Vital signs measured + NEWS recorded			
Pain score assessed			
Analgesia administered (if necessary)			
Refreshments offered (if not NBM)			
Review by senior doctor			
Regular medication administered (if appropriate)			
3rd hour completion time			
Vital signs measured + NEWS recorded			
Pain score assessed			
Analgesia administered (if necessary)			
Refreshments offered (if not NBM)			
Regular medication administered (if appropriate)			
4th hour completion time			
Vital signs measured + NEWS recorded			
Pain score assessed			
Analgesia administered (if necessary)			
Refreshments offered (if not NBM)			
Regular medication administered (if appropriate)			
5th hour completion time			
Adult safeguarding referred			
Child cause for concern referred			
Mental health matrix completed			
Mental Health referred			
Domestic or sexual violence	Yes / No		
DDVA referral			
Paddington Alcohol Test	Yes / No		
Referred to Alcohol Clinical Nurse Specialist			
Referred to Drug Clinical Nurse Specialist			
Box 1 - Specialty Bed Trigger:			
Stroke/TIA	Stroke Unit (B504)		
Upper GI Bleed	Ward 11 (B404) or MAU (A300)		
DKA	MAU (A300) or T/U/HDU		
NIV	Respiratory (A522) or MAU (A300)		
Chest Drain	MAU (A300), Respiratory (A522) or B/H/700		
ICF	TRU (A600)		
Fracture/Ortho	Ward 700, A&E or T/U/HDU/CCU		
Authors: Jason Legg & Hayley Thomas (November 2016)			

The Emergency Department Safety Checklist
Improving safety and reliability in overcrowded urgent care systems across the West of England

The objectives of the project is:

- To improve safety in the ED through the use of a checklist
- To improve reliability in the ED through the use of a checklist
- To improve the safety and reliability of the ED through the use of a checklist

The problem is:

The ED is the most overcrowded and most expensive part of the NHS. It is the most overcrowded and most expensive part of the NHS. It is the most overcrowded and most expensive part of the NHS.

The information:

The ED is the most overcrowded and most expensive part of the NHS. It is the most overcrowded and most expensive part of the NHS. It is the most overcrowded and most expensive part of the NHS.

The methods:

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The results:

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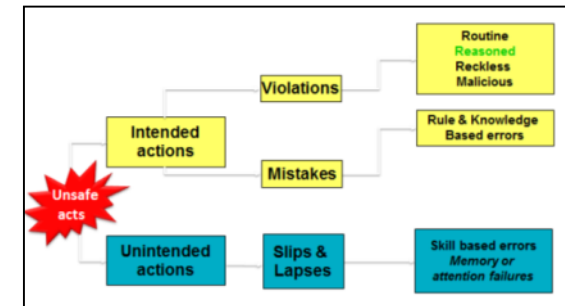
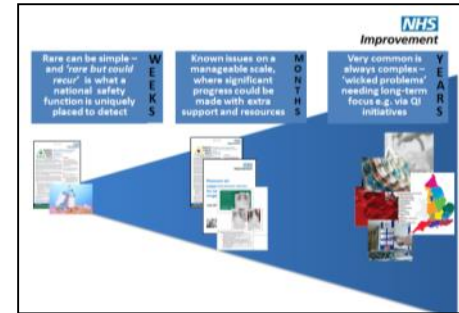
Conclusion:

The ED is the most overcrowded and most expensive part of the NHS. It is the most overcrowded and most expensive part of the NHS. It is the most overcrowded and most expensive part of the NHS.

SHINE 2014 Final report at http://www.weahsn.net/wpcontent/uploads/EDCL2016_A7_01.docx

We have learned from experience

- Mindful of size of the challenge
- Error wisdom to avoid 'solutionitis'
- Balance systems & frontline
- Including through our 'ask why' videos



Patient Safety Alert - Reducing the risk of oxygen tubing being connected to air flowmeters - 4 October 2016

AIR FLOWMETERS

ENGINEER

Four Criteria

NHS Improvement

Patient Safety Alert - Nasogastric tube replacement: continuing risk of death and severe harm - 22 July 2016

Four Criteria

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/patient-safety-alerts/>

Conscientiousness.....

Research is pointing to *conscientiousness* as the one-trait-to-rule-them-all in terms of future success, both career-wise and personal.

“It would actually be nice if there were some negative things that went along with conscientiousness,” Roberts told me. “But at this point it’s emerging as one of the primary dimensions of successful functioning across the lifespan. It really goes cradle to grave in terms of how people do.”

<http://amp.timeinc.net/time/3136568/science-points-to-the-single-most-valuable-personality-trait/?source=dam>



Thank you

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