

Applicability of Healthcare Failure Mode and Effects Analysis to healthcare epidemiology: evaluation of the sterilization and use of surgical instruments.

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Weinstein RA, Linkin DR, Sausman C, et al. Applicability of Healthcare Failure Mode and Effects Analysis to Healthcare Epidemiology: Evaluation of the Sterilization and Use of Surgical Instruments. Clin Infect Dis. 2005;41(7):1014-1019. doi:10.1086/433190.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/applicability-healthcare-failure-mode-and-effects-analysis-healthcare-epidemiology-evaluation>

This study discusses the practical use of health care [failure mode and effects analysis](#) (HFMEA) by presenting a real case example of this qualitative methodology. Discussion focuses on creating an initial process flow diagram and how information obtained through interviews adds necessary detail to those flow charts. The mapped-out process then leads to identification of potential failures and the development of strategies to address them. The authors conclude that HFMEA may allow systems to uncover [latent errors](#) beyond those discovered with root cause analyses or quantitative techniques.