

Creating high reliability in health care organizations.

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Pronovost P, Berenholtz SM, Goeschel CA, et al. Creating high reliability in health care organizations. Health Serv Res. 2006;41(4 Pt 2):1599-1617.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/creating-high-reliability-health-care-organizations>

[High-reliability organizations](#) (eg, the aviation industry) have developed methods for achieving safety despite hazardous conditions. This study describes the development of a framework to achieve high reliability in the intensive care unit (ICU) context and discusses its application to the problem of preventing catheter-related bloodstream infections. The framework is based on a [previously published](#) method for evaluating safety interventions; the key elements include selecting measurable outcomes, applying evidence-based interventions, ensuring the intervention reaches all patients, and improving the overall [culture of safety](#). The investigators applied this approach in ICUs in Michigan and achieved significant reductions in the incidence of catheter-related bloodstream infections.