

Implementing standardized operating room briefings and debriefings at a large regional medical center.

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Berenholtz SM, Schumacher K, Hayanga AJ, et al. Implementing standardized operating room briefings and debriefings at a large regional medical center. *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.* 2009;35(8):391-7.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/implementing-standardized-operating-room-briefings-and-debriefings-large-regional-medical>

Improving [teamwork](#) and [communication](#) is a key strategy to prevent errors in the operative [setting](#). Past studies have evaluated the role of [checklists](#), [briefings](#), and targeted educational [programs](#) as potential solutions. This prospective cohort study describes the development of a standardized briefing and debriefing tool. Investigators implemented the tools across surgical specialties and evaluated their impact in more than 37,000 briefings and debriefings. While clinical patient outcomes were not assessed, the study found improved perceptions of interdisciplinary teamwork and communication among providers. The authors advocate for this and similar [tools](#) that provide structured communication strategies for health care providers. An AHRQ WebM&M [commentary](#) discussed the role of a [time out](#) in improving teamwork and communication in the operative setting.