

Association between implementation of a medical team training program and surgical mortality.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/association-between-implementation-medical-team-training-program-and-surgical-mortality>

Classic [studies](#) have demonstrated that operating rooms are rife with communication and teamwork problems, and suboptimal teamwork has been [linked](#) to poor postoperative patient outcomes. In this rigorously designed study, surgical teams at 74 Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals underwent [teamwork training](#) through the VA's [Medical Team Training](#) program. The training also included implementation of preoperative and postoperative [checklists](#). The teamwork training was associated with a striking reduction in mortality compared to other VA hospitals that had not yet implemented the program, and a dose–response effect was also evident, with continuing training resulting in further reductions in mortality. An accompanying editorial lauds this study as an example of how to conduct a rigorous, [evidence-based evaluation](#) of a safety intervention, and stresses that addressing teamwork and [safety culture](#) are as essential to improving safety as technical and procedural interventions such as checklists.