

Advancing the science of patient safety.

September 20, 2011

Shekelle PG, Pronovost P, Wachter R, et al. Advancing the science of patient safety. *Ann Intern Med.* 2011;154(10):693-6. doi:10.7326/0003-4819-154-10-201105170-00011.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/advancing-science-patient-safety>

Research on patient safety has dramatically [increased](#) in the past decade, but despite this, the progress of improving safety remains [slow](#). Significant [controversy](#) exists about how safety interventions should be evaluated, and even apparently successful interventions may not be generalizable to all settings. This AHRQ-sponsored consensus statement by leaders in the safety field defines a framework for rigorous assessment of safety interventions. This framework calls for investigators to use [change theory](#) to develop their projects; provide adequate details of the intervention, implementation process, and the [context](#) in which the intervention was conducted; and evaluate both the expected outcomes and potential [unintended consequences](#) of the intervention. The accompanying editorial (see link below) discusses the challenges of conducting research in complex settings, and takes note of existing [guidelines](#) and [resources](#) to help clinicians write and interpret articles about patient safety interventions.