

## Eliminating central line-associated bloodstream infections: a national patient safety imperative.

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The continued progress in eliminating [central line-associated bloodstream infections](#) (CLABSIs) in intensive care units (ICUs) stands as one of the patient safety movement's major successes. The initial efforts to prevent CLABSI in the ICU at Johns Hopkins Hospital, championed by [Dr. Peter Pronovost](#), were subsequently replicated in the landmark [Keystone ICU](#) project in Michigan. This study describes the results of an [AHRQ-funded](#) effort to extend the Keystone ICU approach nationwide, attempting to prevent infections in more than 1000 ICUs in 44 states. The initiative, which combined the well-publicized infection control [checklist](#) with interventions to enhance [safety culture](#) (such as the [comprehensive unit-based safety program](#)) and continuous data measurement and feedback, achieved a reduction in CLABSI rates of more than 40%. This remarkable series of interventions exemplifies the value of using a sociotechnical approach to improving safety and has likely saved thousands of lives.