

Root-cause analysis: swatting at mosquitoes versus draining the swamp.

July 5, 2017

Trbovich PL, Shojania KG. Root-cause analysis: swatting at mosquitoes versus draining the swamp. *BMJ Qual Saf.* 2017;26(5):350-353. doi:10.1136/bmjqs-2016-006229.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/root-cause-analysis-swatting-mosquitoes-versus-draining-swamp>

Although [root cause analysis](#) is an [established strategy](#) to investigate incidents, some have [questioned](#) its effectiveness in health care. Drawing from a [recent study](#), this editorial suggests that robust health care investment in human factors engineering and [safety science](#) is needed to help root cause analysis achieve its full potential as an improvement mechanism. A recent [Annual Perspective](#) discussed ongoing problems with the root cause analysis process and described opportunities to improve its application in health care.