

Factors associated with the use of cognitive aids in operating room crises: a cross-sectional study of US hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers.

May 9, 2018

Alidina S, Goldhaber-Fiebert SN, Hannenberg A, et al. Factors associated with the use of cognitive aids in operating room crises: a cross-sectional study of US hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers. *Implement Sci.* 2018;13(1):50. doi:10.1186/s13012-018-0739-4.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/factors-associated-use-cognitive-aids-operating-room-crises-cross-sectional-study-us>

[Checklists](#) have been shown to improve surgical outcomes in [clinical trials](#), but their effectiveness in [real-world settings](#) is variable. This implementation study examined factors related to checklist use in the operating room for crises rather than routine practice. Investigators surveyed individuals who downloaded a checklist from two websites about whether they used a checklist regularly in specific clinical situations. Thorough checklist implementation, [leadership support](#), and dedicated staff training time led to more regular use of the checklist. Conversely, frontline resistance and lack of clinical champions undermined checklist use. The authors conclude that optimizing organizational conditions should increase the use of checklists during crises in operating rooms. Past PSNet interviews with [Lucian Leape](#) and [David Urbach](#) discussed their perspectives on surgical safety checklists.