

## Improving handoff by deliberate cognitive processing: results from a randomized controlled experimental study.

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van Heesch G, Frenkel J, Kollen W, et al. Improving handoff by deliberate cognitive processing: results from a randomized controlled experimental study. *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.* 2020;47(4):234-241. doi:10.1016/j.jcq.2020.11.008.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/improving-handoff-deliberate-cognitive-processing-results-randomized-controlled-experimental>

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Poor [handoff](#) communication can [threaten](#) patient safety. In this study set in the Netherlands, pediatric residents were asked to develop a [contingency plan](#) for patients received during handoffs and asked to recall information from that handoff five hours later. Results indicate that engaging in deliberate cognitive processing during handoffs resulted in better understanding of patients' problems, which could contribute to improved patient safety.