

The Top Six: standardized safety practices in U.S. Army Medical Department treatment facilities worldwide.

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[High-reliability organizations](#) (HROs) are able to “[manage the unexpected](#)” while operating under challenging conditions. This article describes the U.S. Medical Department’s systemwide rollout of the Top Six HRO communication practices. The authors summarize how the Top Six campaign was developed and discuss the implementation of six systemwide initiatives to increase reliability – (1) [daily safety briefings](#); (2) safety leadership [rounds](#); (3) unit-based huddles; (4) [Situation Background Assessment Recommendation](#) (SBAR) for communication; (5) briefs and [debriefs](#) for surgical cases; and (6) [Universal Protocol](#) before every procedure.