



INTEGRATING AN EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTION IN A SMARTPHONE APPLICATION (APP) TO ENHANCE SURGICAL SAFETY—WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S SAFE SURGERY CHECKLIST

A digital application solution to promote surgical safety

A CLOSER LOOK

Several safety and clinical guidelines exist that calculate clinical scores and help doctors and nurses monitor patient activity and progress. Clinicians often need to look up guidelines, but this can be time consuming and confusing at times. World Health Organization's Safe Surgery Checklist is a simple tool designed to improve the safety of surgical procedures by incorporating key steps that the surgical team needs to follow in the operating room -before, during and after the procedure. Adoption of this checklist reportedly reduced the rate of deaths and surgical complications by more than a third in the original landmark study (Haynes, AB, 2009). Subsequently smaller studies have also supported these findings. In addition to improving surgical safety, the checklist has also demonstrated improved communication between members of the operating team, cost savings and improvements in the safety culture.

The purpose of this project is to put the checklist at the fingertips of clinicians by creating an IOS application that is embedded and integrated with EHR solutions forming part of the clinical decision support to improve patient safety and quality of care. The application is planned to be piloted for evaluation at operating rooms at various partner trauma centers in and around Baltimore.

OUTCOME

An IOS application that embeds WHO's Safe Surgery Checklist and is integrated with clinical decision support system of major electronic health record vendors.

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PARTNER ORGANIZATION

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www.who.int/patientsafety/safesurgery

