

Evidence Bites: Safety checklists in Radiology

An evidence summary inspired by safety discussions held at the WUTH Safety Summit

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Is there a safety checklist for radiology?

In March 2009, The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) published guidelines for radiologists in implementing the NPSA Safe Surgery requirement¹. Subsequently, checklist for radiological interventions was produced, based on the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist.

Internationally

Beyond the UK, other countries have also developed safety checklists for use in interventional radiology.

- Society of Interventional Radiology pre-procedure checklist²
- Cardiovascular and Interventional Society of Europe (CIRSE)³
- The RADiological Patient Safety System (RADPASS) checklist⁴

Do they work?

In 2009, Haynes et al. published data in the New England Journal of Medicine to suggest that the implementation of a 19-item surgical safety checklist reduced the rate of death associated with surgery from 1.5% to 0.8% in a global population⁵. Corso et al⁶ showed that use of a 20-item time-out checklist derived from the Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe⁷ eliminated adverse events associated with interventional radiology procedures in the first year of use.

Challenges identified in implementing safety checklists include negative clinician attitudes and lack of clinician buy-in or engagement⁷. Education, local champions, leadership, coaching and regular audit have been identified as being key to successful uptake⁸.

Which NHS Trusts are using a checklist in radiology?

- [Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust](#) assessed uptake of a modified safety checklist and identified barriers to its uptake, increasing uptake from 79% to 100%.
- [University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay](#) have a local safety standard for radiological procedures.

References

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4. Ingle, CJ et al. [A Checklist to Improve Patient Safety in Interventional Radiology](#). Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol. 2013 Apr; 36(2): 312–319.
5. Haynes AB, Weiser TG, Berry WR et al. [A surgical safety checklist to reduce morbidity and mortality in a global population](#). New Engl J Med 2009; 360: 491- 99.
6. Corso, R., Vacirca, F., Patelli, C., and Leni, D. [Use of “Time-Out” checklist in interventional radiology procedures as a tool to enhance patient safety](#). Radiol Med. 2014; 119: 828–834
7. London National Patient Safety Agency (2011). [Patient Safety First 2008 to 2010 , The Campaign Review](#) (pg. 28-31).
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