



Why Safety Culture?

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Thank you

Hamad Medical Corporation
The Institute for Healthcare Improvement



Team Sport

CPPS Team

BWH Provider Services

CRICO/RMF

BWH CMO

Ethics Service

Medical Staff Credentialing Committee

Office of Advising Resources, HMS

Office of General Counsel

Risk Management



My story

Evolving understanding



Institutions are...

“where the human heart either gets welcomed or thwarted or broken.”

Parker Palmer. Quoted in Living the Questions,
Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, CA, 2005.



Brigham and Women's Hospital

- 793-bed tertiary care facility
- Major teaching hospital for Harvard Medical School
- Physician and scientist faculty: 2,738
- Total employees: > 14,000





the **CENTER** for
PROFESSIONALISM
and **PEER SUPPORT**

*The Center's mission is to encourage a culture that values and promotes **mutual respect, trust and teamwork.***



Urgent consensus: Society, Joint Commission, ABMS, ACGME



Safety culture is vital



Safety Culture: Making the Case

- Culture drives safe care delivery
- Culture is about behaviors
- Domains of behaviors include:
 - Teamwork communication
 - Professionalism
 - Response to errors





This is, fundamentally, a *culture* change



Unpacking culture



Safety is linked to effective *teamwork*

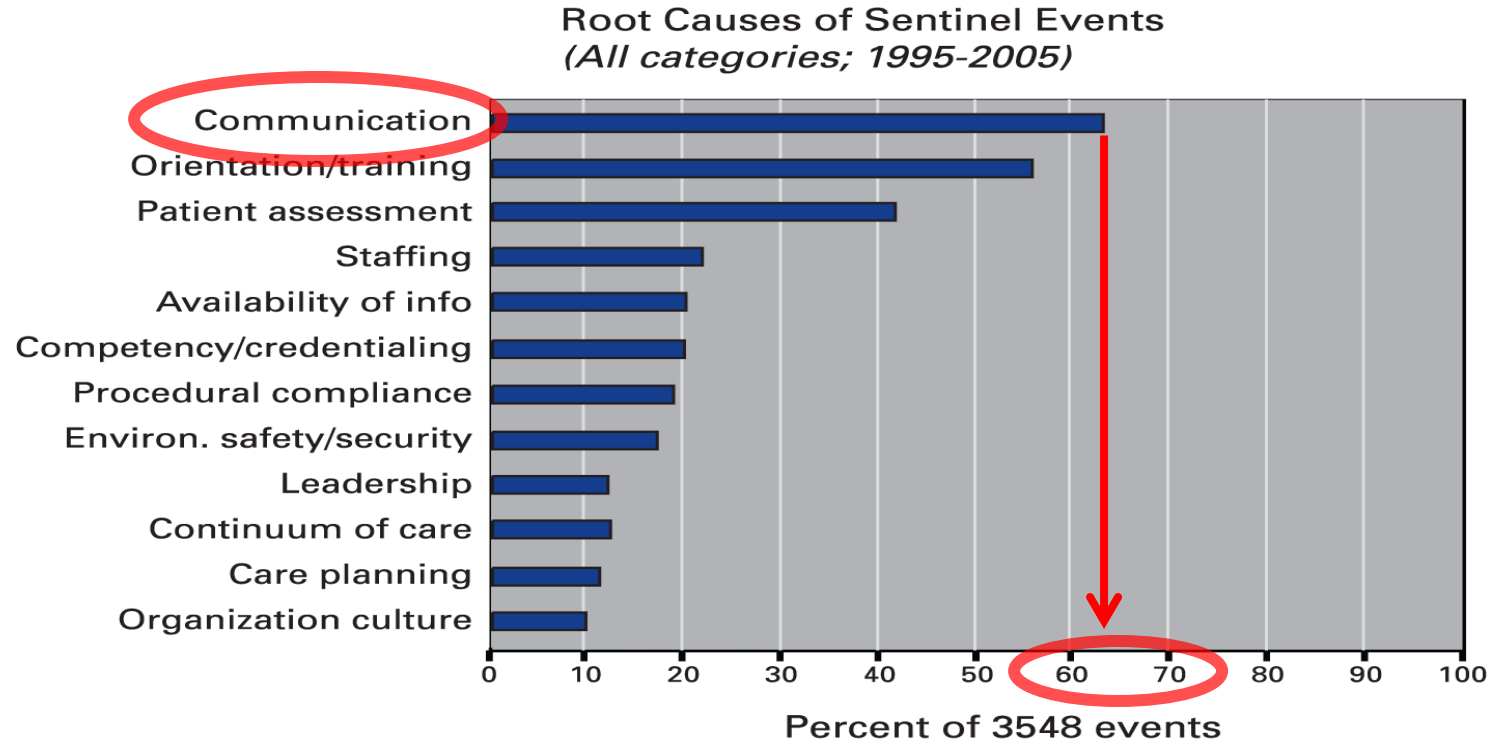


Aviation



Nuclear power

Teamwork in healthcare



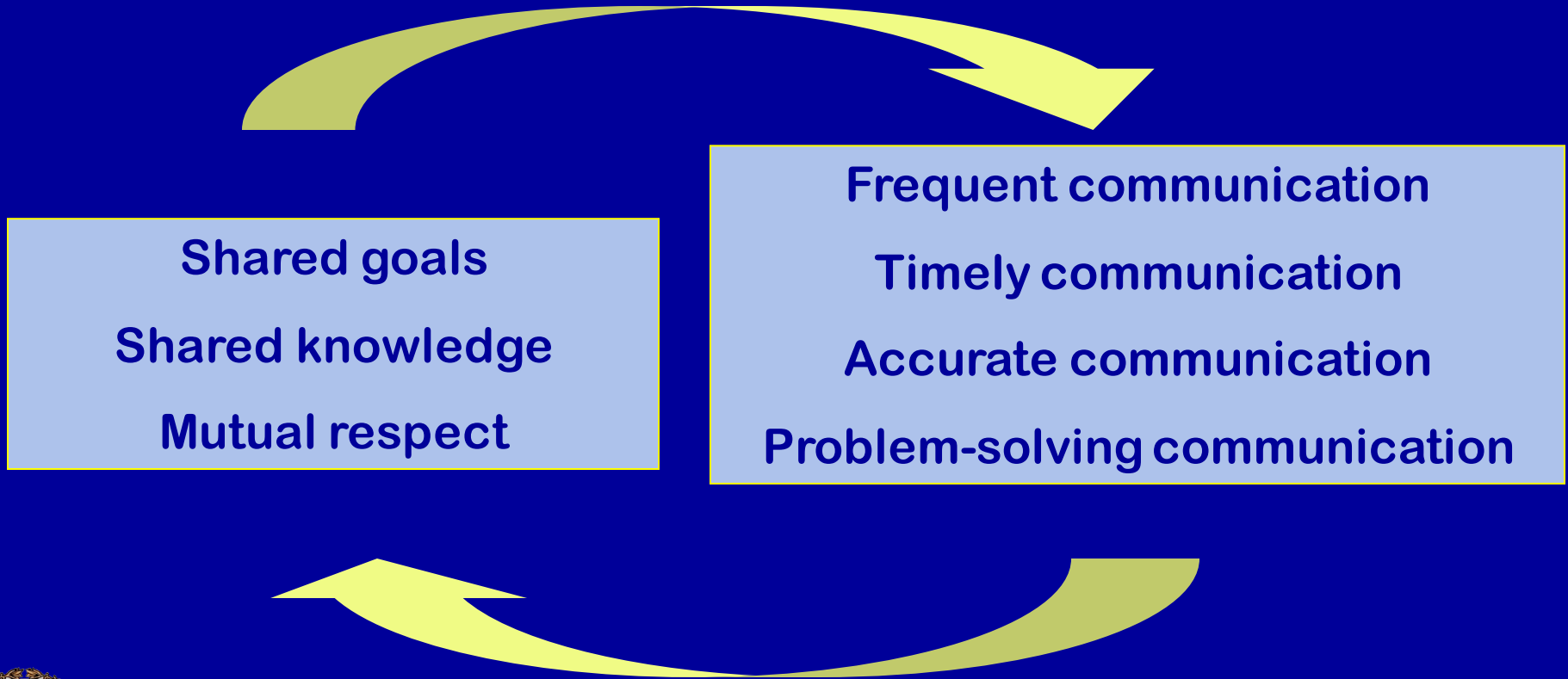
Safety culture: Teamwork in medicine

- 300 surgical cases: pts whose surgical teams exhibited **less teamwork** behaviors were at higher risk for **death and complications**
(Am J Surg. 2009 May;197(5):678-85)
- Reported levels of **positive communication and collaboration** with attending and resident MDs correlated with lower **risk-adjusted morbidity**

(J Am Coll Surg. 2007 Dec;205(6):778-84)



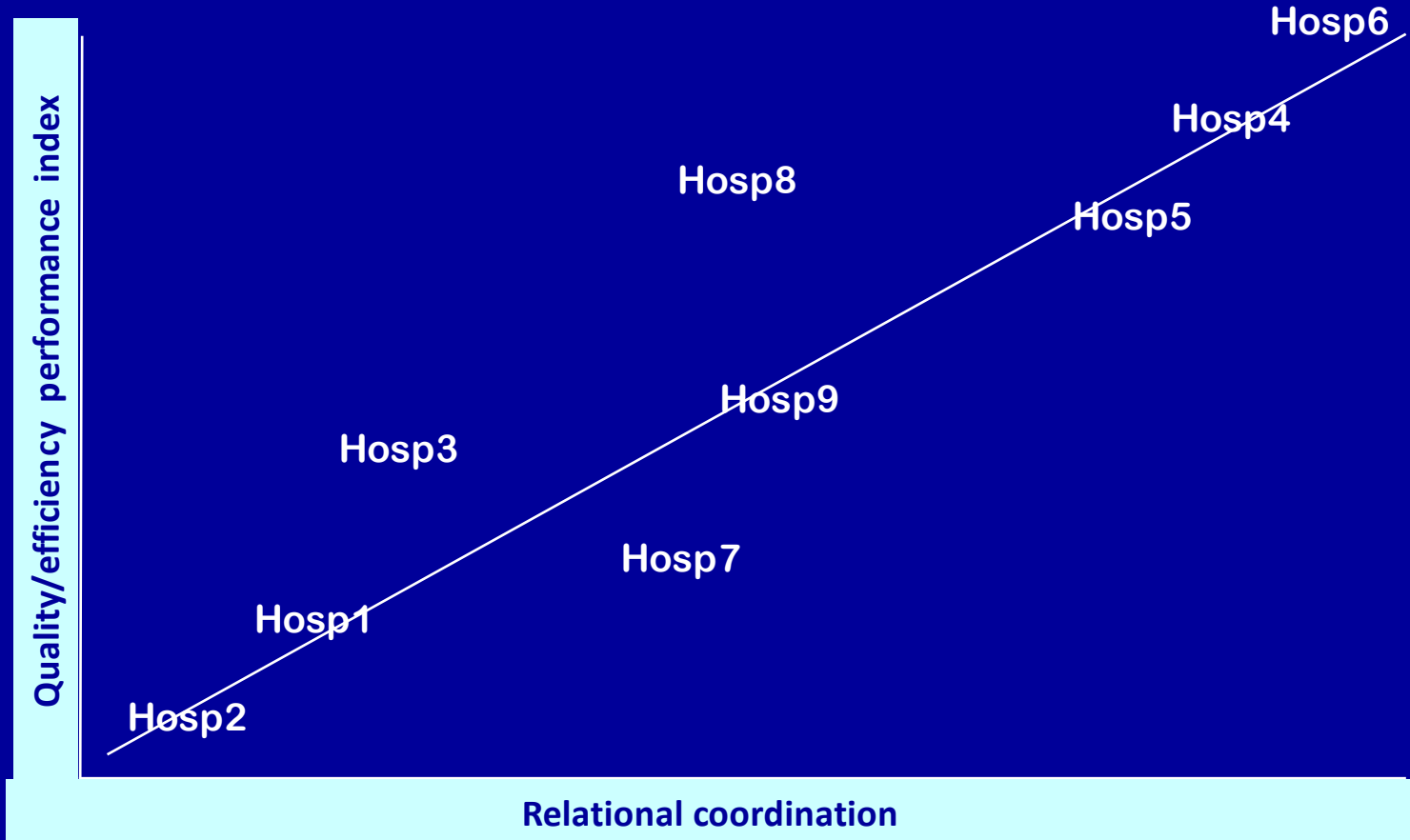
Teamwork: Relational Coordination



Hoffer Gittel J, et al. Medical Care 2000;38(8):807-819.



RC and total knee replacement



Hoffer Gittel J, et al. Medical Care 2000;38(8):807-819.



Unpacking culture



Best way to have safe care is to analyze and anticipate errors

- Must create a culture in which mistakes can be safely discussed
- Otherwise we will
 - Keep quiet, not knowing if we'll be punished or fired
 - Make the same mistakes over and over again

If we can't learn, we can't fix the problem

Leonard MW, Frankel A. Patient Education and Counseling 80 (2010) 288–292



Safety culture: How do we analyze events?



The Joint Commission recommends

- **Transparency**
examine all adverse events
- **Safe**
for everyone to talk about errors and concerns
- **Report**
vulnerabilities and failures without fear of punishment



The Joint Commission Sentinel Event Alert 2009 (Leadership committed to safety)



One of the biggest threats to safety culture is

Unprofessional behavior



Unpacking culture





PROFESSIONALISM

That's not my job.

Professionalism

Ethical

collegial

Respectful

Altruistic

Cultural competence

Honest

Knowledgeable

Resource stewardship

Integrity





Trustworthy relationships

Unifying concept



Unprofessional

Intimidating

Disruptive

Disrespectful

Abusive

Demeaning

Bullying



**So, what happens when we have
unprofessional behaviors?**



Unprofessionalism and patient care

- 3-5% of MDs demonstrate behavior that interferes with patient care

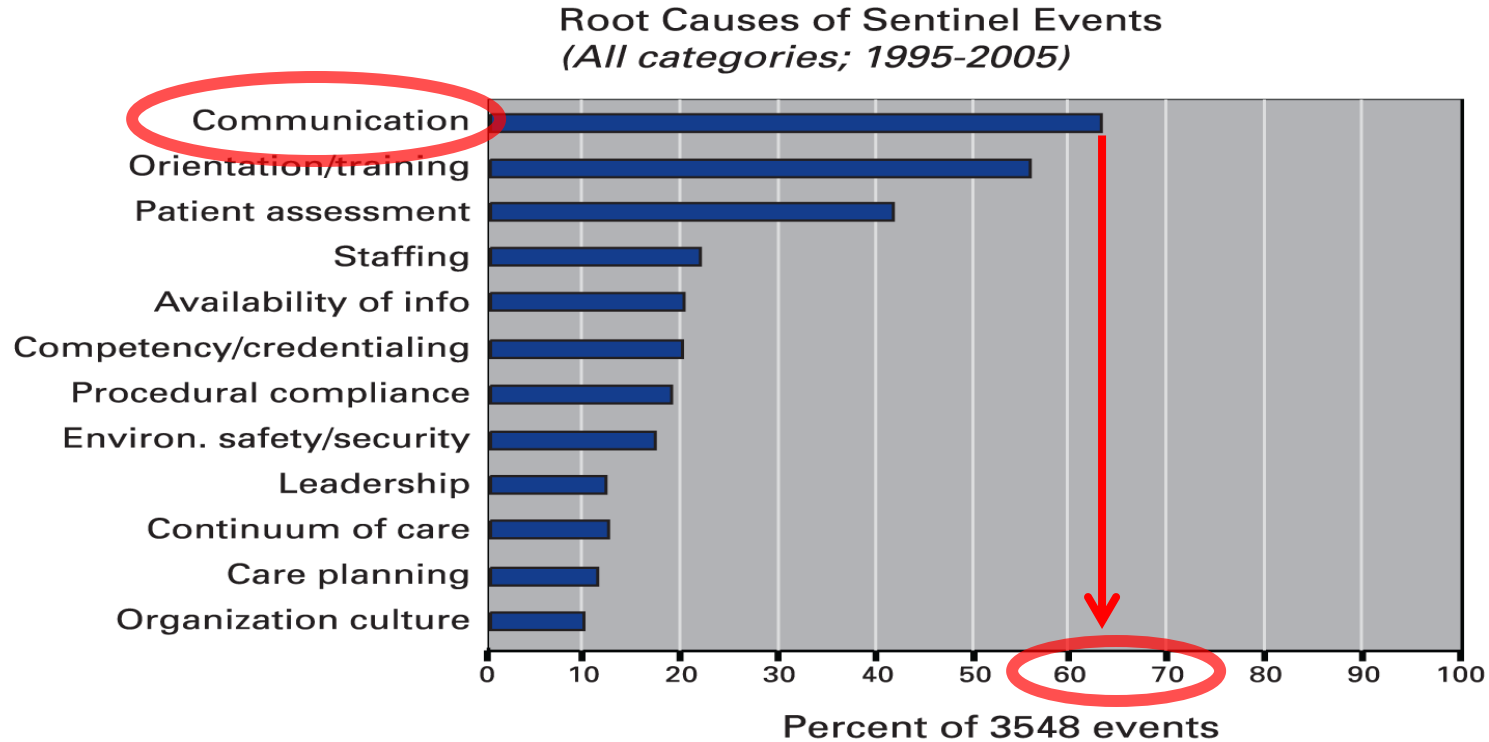
(Ann Intern Med. 2006;144(2):107-115)

- National survey 3900 MDs/RNs/staff in 102 hospitals
 - 51% saw disruptive behavior correlate with compromises in patient safety
 - 71% with compromises in quality

(Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf. 2008;34(8):464-471)



Communication failures



Joint Commission Sentinel Event Alert

End intimidating and disruptive behavior among
physicians, nurses, pharmacists, therapists, support staff
and administrators

“behaviors that undermine a culture of safety”



“Behaviors that undermine a culture of safety”

- Verbal or physical threats
- Intimidation
- Reluctance/refusal to answer questions, refusal to answer pages or calls
- Impatience with questions
- Condescending language or intonation



Unpacking culture



Psychological Safety
Disruptive Behavior
Conflict Management
Teamwork
Safety Culture
Professionalism
Clinician Wellbeing



Impact on clinician health and wellbeing



Being bullied is common and *stressful*

- Somatic symptoms, depression, anxiety, and negative affectivity
- Lower social support from coworkers and supervisors
- Witnesses had more symptoms of anxiety and lower support from supervisor
- Concentrations of cortisol in saliva mirrors those with PTSD and chronic fatigue



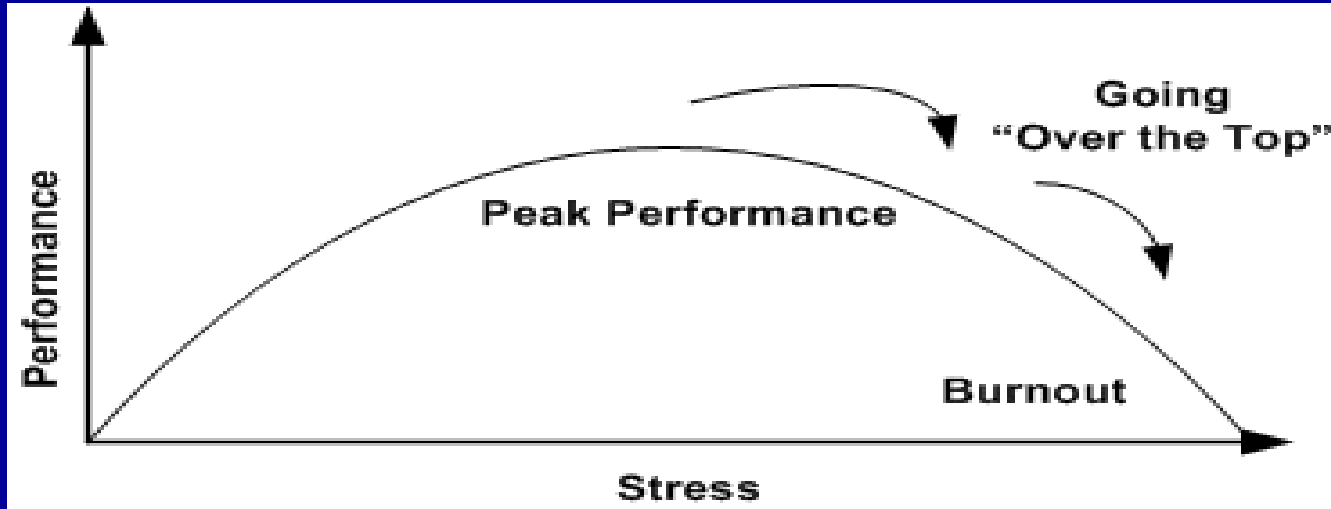
Hansen AM, et al. Bullying at work, health outcomes, and physiological stress response. J

Psychosom Res. 2006 Jan;60(1):63-72.

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Stress and performance



Yerkes Dodson Curve



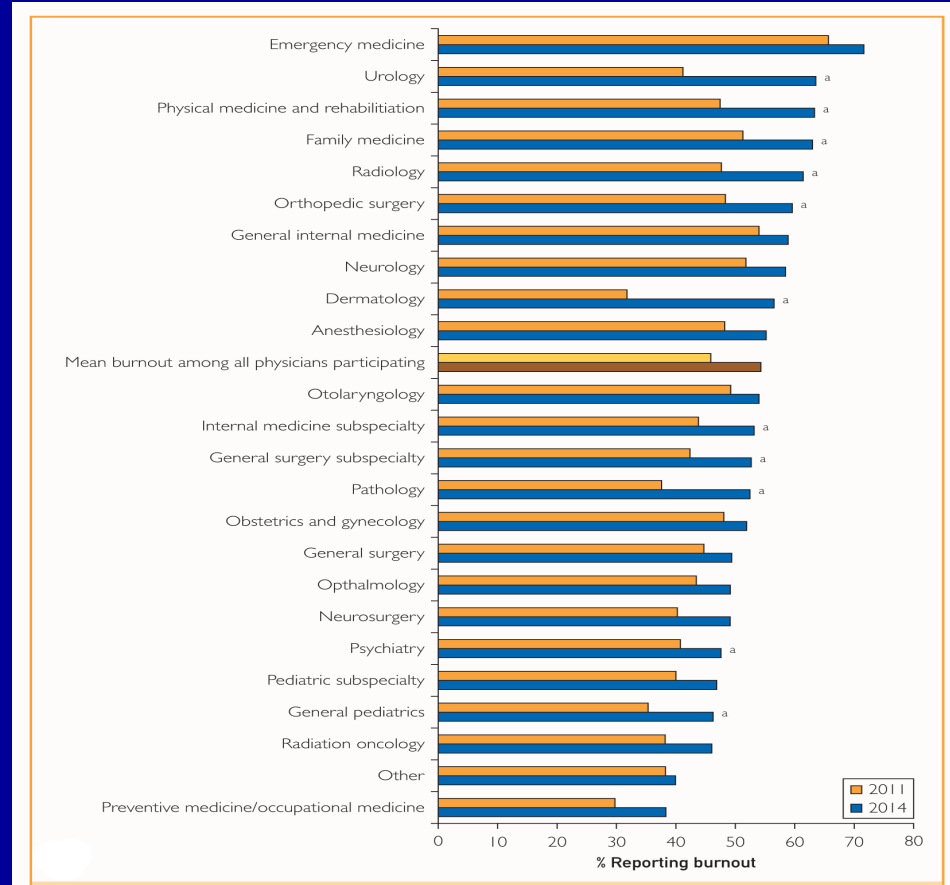
Burnout

Burnout is a syndrome of **depersonalization**, **emotional exhaustion** and a **sense of low personal accomplishment** that leads to decreased effectiveness at work.

Shanafelt, TD, Bradley, KA et al.
Annals. of Internal Medicine, Vol. 136, no 5. 2002.



Physician burnout



In a 2014 study 54.4% of physicians reported at least one symptom of burnout

Shanafelt TD, et al. Mayo Clin Proc. 2015 Dec;90(12):1600-13.



Stress causes burnout

Causes of burnout

- ✓ **Stressful** working conditions
- ✓ Disproportionally high efforts (time, emotional involvement, empathy)
- ✓ Poor satisfaction



Iacovides A, et al. The relationship between job stress, burnout and clinical depression. J Affect Disord. 2003 Aug;75(3):209-21.

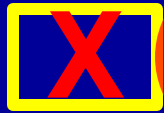


But we can decrease burnout

- Survey of 2,813 physicians
- Supervisor composite leadership score (e.g., treats me with respect and dignity, is interested in my opinion) strongly correlated with burnout/satisfaction
- Each 1-point increase in composite leadership score associated with a 3.3% decrease in likelihood of burnout and a 9% increase in likelihood of satisfaction



Hierarchy of *Responsibility*



No Hierarchy of *Respect*



Why safety culture matters



Patient safety

Positive patient experience

Malpractice risk decrease

Learning environment

Retention, morale, productivity

Health care team wellness

Not doing this is *costly* on many levels



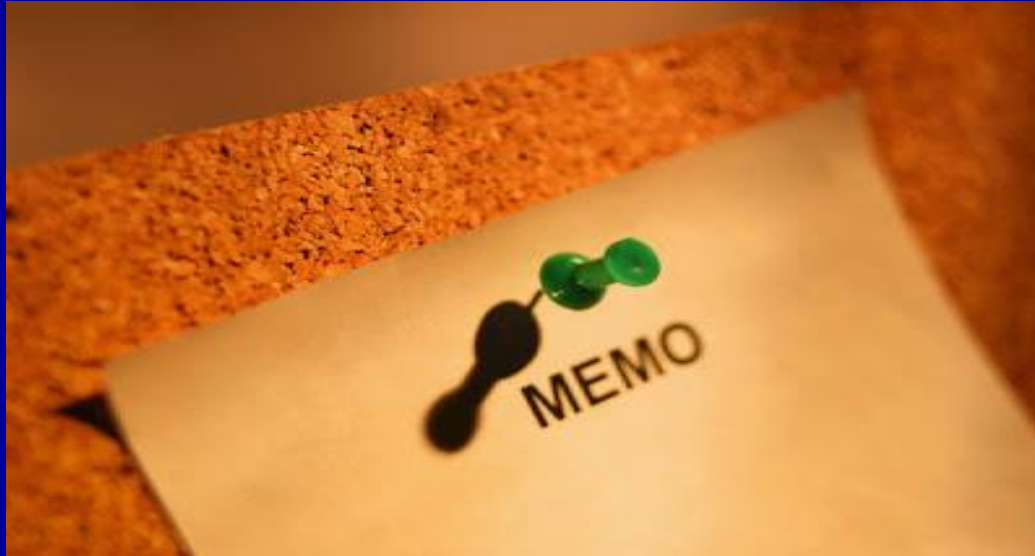


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You can't just send a memo





**Professionalism
Initiative**

**Teamwork
Training
Conflict
Management**

**Just Culture
Initiative**

Peer Support

**Disclosure
Coaching**

Wellness



Conflict management



No consent

- Pt w/ dementia and health care proxy
- To IR for drain replacement
- No consent
- RN assess: O x 2 – 1990's
- MD can't reach HCP – decides to consent pt
- RN speaks up, MD disagrees, RN gets supervisor



What is the conflict?



What is the conflict?

Getting the procedure done

Vs

Obtaining proper consent



Nurse's point of view



Nurse's point of view

- Pt not qualified to give consent
- MD just wants to get case done, doesn't care about right and wrong
- I am ethical, he is not
- *These physicians are unprofessional and arrogant...*



Physician's point of view



Physician's point of view

- This pt needs the procedure, best thing for pt is to do procedure
- There probably was a consent with HCP but didn't make it into chart
- I'm an advocate for getting pt the care she needs v RN who is all about rules
- *These nurses are obstructionists...*



It's not as pure as we'd like

- Competing priorities
 - Patient comfort
 - Timely patient care
 - Production pressure
 - Rules and regulations
- Not understanding or respecting others' roles
- Role heroism: acting like I am the only one who cares about the patient



Difficult Conversations using Frame-Based Feedback



**Think of a time when you wanted to speak
up or give feedback and you either ...**

Did, and it didn't go well

or

Didn't do it



Why saying *Just Do It* doesn't work



Challenges

- Fear of the receiver's reaction, especially anger
- Afraid of damaging the relationship
- Skepticism regarding person changing behavior
- Underestimation of importance
- Perception of time commitment



And more challenges...

- Fear of the receiver's reaction, especially anger
- Afraid of damaging the relationship
- Skepticism regarding person changing behavior
- Underestimation of importance
- Perception of time commitment
- **Culturally unacceptable**



Giving and receiving feedback – positive and critical – should become a habit



And more challenges...

- Fear of the receiver's reaction, especially anger
- Afraid of damaging the relationship
- Skepticism regarding person changing behavior
- Underestimation of importance
- Perception of time commitment
- Culturally unacceptable
- **Safe/trusting environment?**



Creating a climate of *trust*

“The deepest principle in human nature is the craving
to be appreciated.”

William James



And more challenges...

- Fear of the receiver's reaction, especially anger
- Afraid of damaging the relationship
- Skepticism regarding person changing behavior
- Underestimation of importance
- Perception of time commitment
- Culturally unacceptable
- Safe/trusting environment?
- **Emotions**





Can I get a handle on my own emotions?

This means we may need to get over our
righteous anger



Not giving feedback is NOT neutral ...

“Without feedback, mistakes go uncorrected, good performance is not reinforced, and clinical competence is achieved empirically or not at all.”

Ende J. JAMA 1983; 250:771-781.

... but destructive feedback is even worse than none at all.



Simulation

Doesn't that sound better than role play?



What are various traditional approaches?

Control

Non-judgmental





Frame-Based Feedback

**Trying to learn the other person's
perspective through genuine curiosity
and exploration.**

- Rudolph J, Raemer D, Shapiro J.
Clin Teach. 2013 Jun;10(3):186-9.

Frame-based feedback: algorithm overview

My Frame

- Setting context
- Specific behavior(s)
- Concern or appreciation



- Rudolph, et al.



Clarity

Sandwiches are not healthy in some settings

You can be *empathic*
and direct at the same time



You know *what* happened, but not *why* it happened

Therefore, you may not know how to prevent it from happening in the future



Frame-based feedback: algorithm overview

My Frame

- Setting context
- Specific behavior(s)
- Concern or appreciation

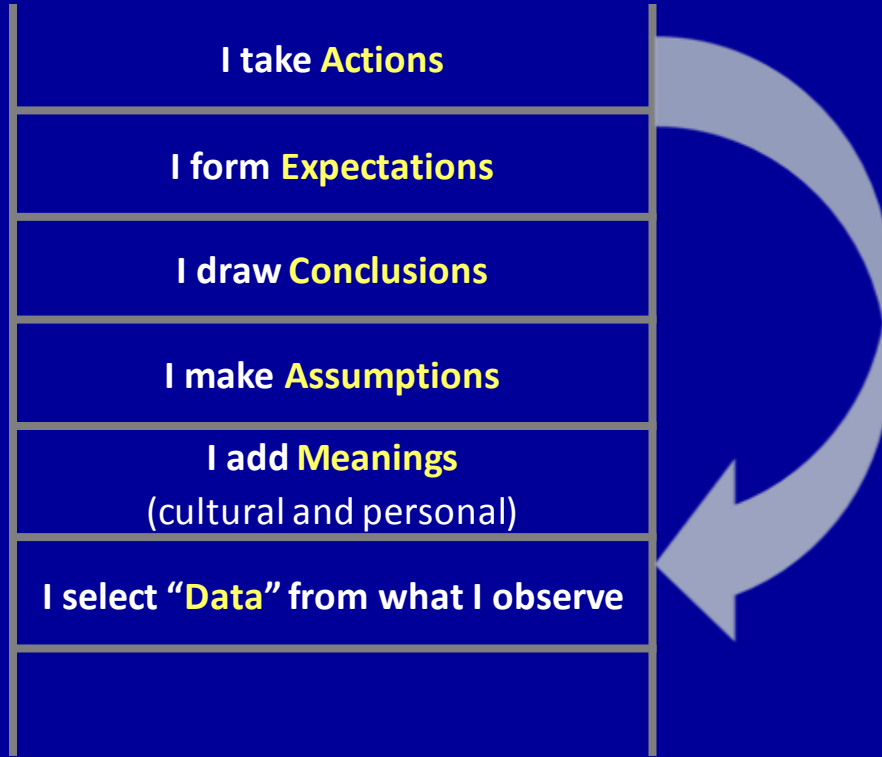
Their Frame

- Short open-ended question (for starters)



- Rudolph, et al.

Ladder of Inference



The reflexive loop:

Our expectations and actions affect the data we perceive and select the next time...

Adapted from Ross R. The Ladder of Inference. In Senge P, Kleiner A, Roberts C Ross R, Smith B. *The Fifth Discipline Fieldbook*. New York: Doubleday, 1994, p243.

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Basic Assumption: Intent vs. Impact

I assume that you are a dedicated person who shows up at work intending to do an excellent job.



Get curious

“When the going gets rough, turn to wonder.”

Parker Palmer



Find the other's frame through a short, open-ended question or statement

I wonder what happened

What were your thoughts at the time?

Help me understand how you see this.



Frame-based feedback: algorithm overview

My Frame

- Setting context
- Specific behavior(s)
- Concern or appreciation

Their Frame

- Short open-ended question (for starters)

Match your discussion to their frame

- Rudolph, et al.



Remaining questions or concerns?



Let's give it another try



No consent

- Pt w/ dementia and health care proxy
- To IR for drain replacement
- No consent
- Nurse assessment: O x 2 – 1990's
- MD can't reach HCP – decides to consent pt
- Nurse speaks up. Attending upset



What might the physician say to the nurse?



What might the nurse say to the physician?



**What if, instead of having this
conversation, the physician had said...**



“I am in charge here.

We are not taking a vote.

You need to do what I say. I also wonder about your clinical competence. This reminds me to discuss your performance with your supervisor.”

(This wasn't the first time this physician had behaved this way to other healthcare team members.)



Realistically, what should the nurse do?



Speaking up and giving feedback is a discipline requiring

Rigor
Technical skill
Honesty
Persistence
Courage

**“The problem is not a lack of skill,
it is a lack of courage.”**

- Moxley, R. It also takes courage to lead.
In, *Living the Questions*. Ed, S Intrator.



The “must remember” skills

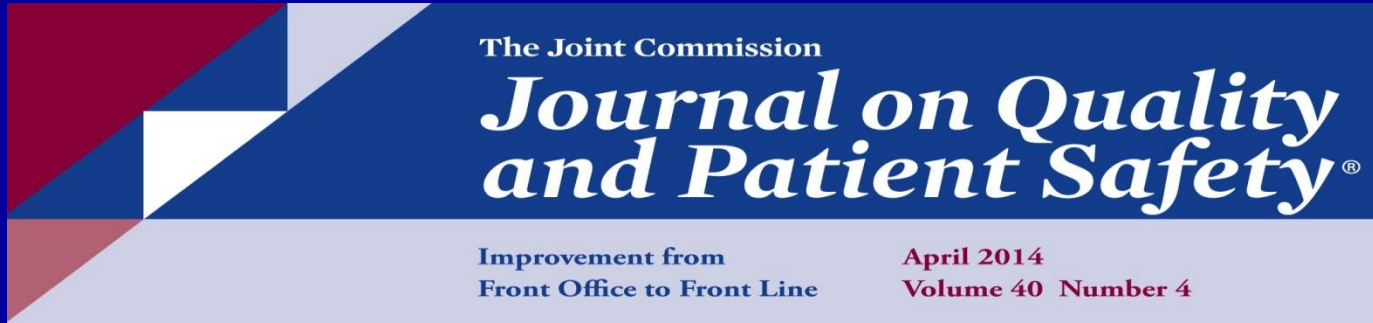
- Get a handle on your own emotions
- Establish trust (hold Basic Assumption)
- Clarity: specific behaviors and concerns
- Frame-based: maintain curiosity
- Separate behaviors and character
- Set expectations
- Make feedback expected/routine



How can our leaders create a culture of safety?



Our Professionalism Program



Shapiro J, Whittemore A, Tsen LC.

Instituting a Culture of Professionalism: The Establishment of a Center for Professionalism and Peer Support.



Components of our Program



**How can we as team members create a
culture of safety?**



Create the habit, time and space

To question and challenge

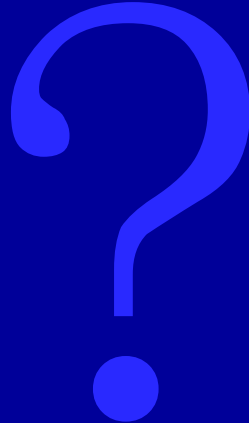
For teams to work together on solutions

To explicitly honor what is going well

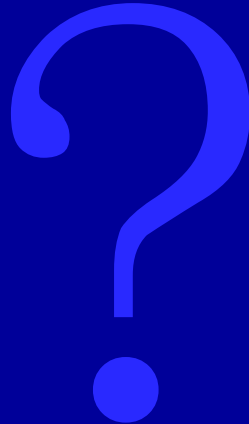


Do I understand/respect your role?

Do you understand/respect mine?

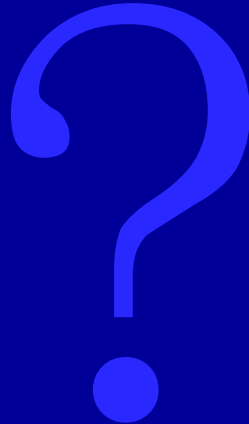


How am I helping you to do your work?



What can I do better to help you get your work done?

What can you do to help me get my work done?



If we want people to perform at a high level
in this challenging environment,
we have to think of a way for people
to feel supported and valued.





Professionalism
Initiative

Teamwork
Training
Conflict
Management

Just Culture
Initiative

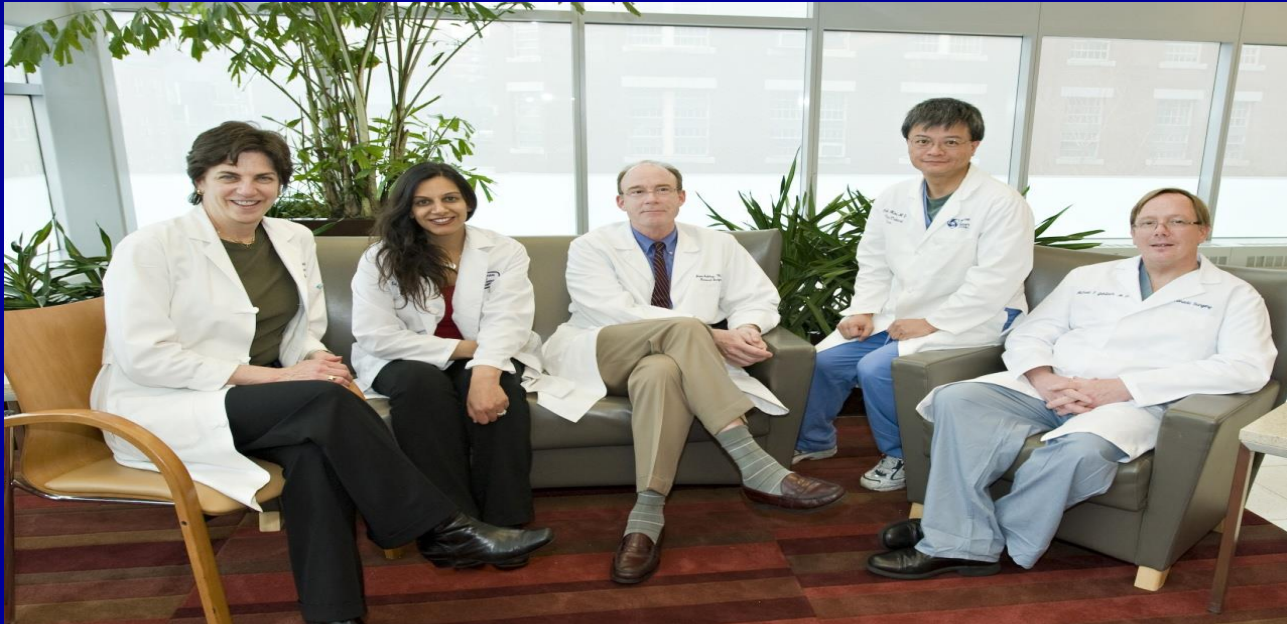
Peer Support

Disclosure
Coaching

Wellness



Peer Support Disclosure Coaching Defendant Support





**SYDNEY
OPERA
HOUSE
VAPS Project**

OUR HOUSE RULES

I WILL.....

- 1. DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO GO HOME SAFE**
- 2. NEVER FORGET RULE #1**
- 3. RESPECT MY WORKMATES**
- 4. COMMUNICATE POSITIVELY WITH THOSE AROUND ME**
- 5. CHALLENGE MY MATES TO DO THE RIGHT THING**
- 6. PRESENT FIT FOR DUTY & READY TO DO MY BEST**
 - NEVER TAKE SHORT CUTS AT THE EXPENSE OF SAFETY**
- 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE & BE PROUD OF MY WORK**
- 9. SPEAK UP IF I SEE SOMETHING NOT QUITE RIGHT**
- 10. STEP UP & HELP MY WORKMATES IF I SEE THEY NEED HELP**

**This is difficult but so important. It takes
courage and skill.**

Thank you for your commitment to this work

