

A checklist for safety improvement

In the *Continuous improvement of patient safety* report, we provide a safety improvement checklist to be used when developing solutions to safety problems. This has been developed using the experiences and insights of the frontline NHS teams we have worked with over the past decade.

The checklist is aimed at people working in provider organisations when tackling a safety problem. This might be to reduce the incidence of falls in a ward, or to improve the reporting of adverse events and near misses across an organisation.

There are no easy solutions to improve safety, however, we hope it will be a useful reference point whenever potential solutions are being considered.

Checklist for safety improvement

Measurement and monitoring

- Safety data are used for the primary purpose of improvement
- Past, emergent and future risks are continuously measured and monitored

Improvement and learning

- Care processes are defined and standardised first where possible
- Quality improvement methods are then selected and used appropriately

Engagement and culture

- Patients, carers and families are supported to play an active role to improve safety
- Members of staff are supported to develop and use their skills in improvement

Strategy and accountability

- Members of staff at all levels share the approach taken to improve safety
- Information about safety concerns is actively sought and welcomed

See www.health.org.uk/publication/continuous-improvement-patient-safety