

TeamSTEPPS Video Debrief Guide: Huddle in Emergency Department

Video Objective

To demonstrate the benefits of a team huddle to enhance performance and patient safety.

TeamSTEPPS Tool or Concept

Huddle.

Brief Video Description

A multidisciplinary emergency department team huddles before the arrival of a patient with a possibly complex case.

Discussion Questions

1. What roles do the different team members fill?
2. What are some likely problems and contingencies the team anticipates, and how does the team plan to manage them?
3. What is the main goal the team establishes?

Discussion Answers

1. The physician, Callie (in green scrubs), is the team leader. She ensures roles are assigned, makes a plan, communicates clear expectations, encourages feedback, and models TeamSTEPPS tools and strategies. Assigned roles include:
 - Tech Ralph will place the patient on the monitor and obtain vital signs.
 - Nurse Autumn will start an IV, draw labs, and give medications.
 - Nurse Julie will document.
 - Nurse Jonathan will get the patient into a gown and obtain cooling supplies.
 - Pharmacist Jay will prepare medications.
2. In the huddle, the team anticipates problems that may occur and makes plans for them:
 - The patient may be unable to cooperate with an oral temperature reading. The team will attempt to obtain a forehead temperature.
 - The patient may be hyperthermic. They will prepare for cooling measures.
 - The patient's behavior may pose a safety issue. They will try calming measures first and consider medications next.
3. In establishing goals, safety for the entire team, including the patient, is prioritized.

Lessons Learned

A huddle helps teams improve performance and enhance safety when preparing for an event. During a huddle, a team can establish goals, ensure roles and tasks are assigned, and plan for contingencies. A huddle provides team members with the opportunity to share ideas and concerns. For example, in the video, the emergency department technician, Ralph, reminds the team to try calming measures before medications.