



Improvement
Academy

Huddle Up for Safer Healthcare

HUSH Safety Huddles



BASIC

Information Leaflet

Yorkshire and Humber Improvement Academy
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Patient harms are estimated to cost the NHS more than £2.3billion per year¹. For example, falls can lead to hip fractures and other injuries, whilst even falls without harm can lead to loss of confidence and increased length of stay for patients.

The Yorkshire and Humber Improvement Academy is actively working with over 400 frontline teams across the region and beyond within a variety of healthcare sectors including acute, mental health, community, care homes, and hospices to implement our Huddle Up for Safer Healthcare (HUSH) programme. Our HUSH programme has been demonstrated to reduce patient harm².

What is a HUSH Safety Huddle?

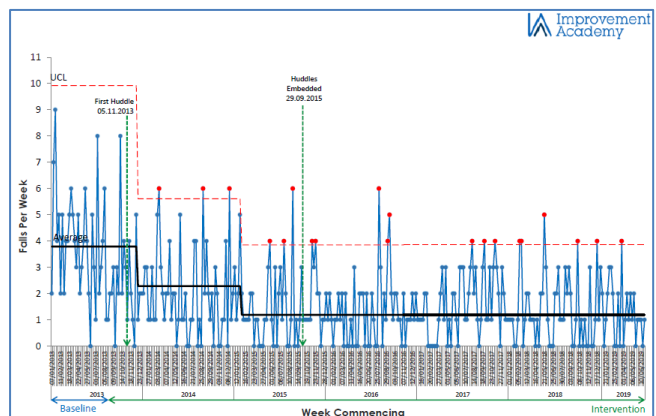
Team huddles have been used for many years and across many industries to improve team-working and communication.

We have combined the notion of a team huddle with measuring and improving patient safety. In this manual we share some of our learning about what makes our HUSH Safety Huddle effective and sustainable.

Our background

Our journey began in 2013 working with one team in Leeds Teaching Hospitals who wanted to reduce their falls. Their focus was who they were worried about falling on that day and what could they do as a team. The initial aim was to go 30 days without a fall - the team did not believe this was possible. We started huddles using PDSA cycles, focusing on one initial harm and encouraged participation from doctors, pharmacists, nurses, care support workers, housekeepers, therapists, ward clerks and administration staff.

This was backed up by monthly data measurement using SPC (Statistical Process Control) charts. After some time, these charts began to show improvements with a step reduction of 50% fewer falls.



Elderly Medicine Ward: Falls per week

¹ NHS England – Frailty resources

² University of Bradford - Evaluation of the Huddling Up for Safer Healthcare Scaling Up Project

From this work, in 2015 the Health Foundation awarded a grant to scale up safety huddles in 3 acute trusts across 5 hospitals in Leeds, Barnsley and Scarborough where huddles were successfully implemented and embedded in 83% of all inpatient wards³.

HUSH safety huddles have now become a flagship programme in the Improvement Academy and are an integral part of our work in improving overall patient safety.

To hear the impact of our HUSH Safety huddles
<https://bit.ly/3Vn9tDt>



Our HUSH coaches' network

Once you have become a nominated HUSH coach, with the agreement of your organisation you will be invited to join our HUSH coaches' network.

We hold quarterly meetings in virtually. These meetings give the HUSH coaches an opportunity to meet up and discuss how huddles are progressing in their organisation and to share learning on what is working and what is not working so well!

HUSH Academy

The Improvement Academy offers a 12-month coaching package to support the implementation of HUSH Safety Huddles.

Our coaching package covers training one of your nominated coaches over one year to enable them to develop the required skills to become a HUSH Safety Huddles coach. The package includes all the necessary tools and materials to support your huddles including analysis and presentation of your data. There is also the option to discuss a bespoke package to fit your requirements.

For further information contact:

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³ The Health Foundation Final Report Sept 2017 – Scaling up Patient Safety Huddles to enhance patient safety and safety culture in hospital wards – page 10

This work has received funding from the Health Foundation Scaling-Up programme. The programme has and been evaluated by the University of Bradford Evaluation and Trials Unit and University of York Health Economics Consortium.



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