

**Title:** Nurse Leader Safety Rounds for High Reliability: Teaching, Reinforcing, and Building Accountability using Audit and Feedback

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**Background:** Preventable medical harm is the third leading cause of death in the United States. Specific harms have been reduced using audit and feedback (A&F), a strategy that modifies clinician behavior to become consistent with preventative evidence-based practices. Undertaking one process at a time can be resource-intensive and many patient harms cannot be easily affected by confined practices. In value-based healthcare, leaders seek to increase care quality and patient outcomes at lower costs. Hospitals must expand safety management efforts to more broadly prevent harm, as in high reliability organizations (HROs). HROs sustain safe performance despite complex and risky work. Operational nurse leaders are well-positioned to influence teams to organize chaotic clinical environments to identify and mitigate risk proactively and quickly.

**Purpose:** Evaluate the implementation of A&F on nurse leader adherence to daily safety rounds and precursor incident reporting at a regional community children's hospital in the Pacific Northwest.

**Method:** Project assumed a prospective, descriptive design. Adherence data on frequency, high-quality, and HRO leader practice standards and incident reporting rates of precursor events were collected.

**Results:** Adherence to frequency standard increased from 63% at baseline to 79% during intervention. Adherence to high-quality standards increased from 50% initially to 90% in the final week of intervention. Adherence to HRO leader practice indicators increased from 0% to 67% in the final week. Precursor incident reporting rates increased 25% during intervention from baseline.

**Conclusion:** Application of A&F to nurse leaders' practice allowed for discovery of functional tools to lead high-quality, highly reliable safety rounds.

