



How RCSEd is advancing patient safety



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Upholding patient safety and ensuring the highest possible standards of patient care have been at the heart of the College's activity since it was founded more than 500 years ago. The Patient Safety Group supports and coordinates all the College's patient safety initiatives. We have a multidisciplinary membership drawn from all the faculties of the College, including representation from the wider surgical team and patients themselves.

Over the years, the College has developed resources to help improve patient safety, as detailed below.

SUPPORTING WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY

The College is delighted to lend enthusiastic support to the sixth WPSD, highlighting this year's theme of diagnostic safety. The College is running this special feature in *Surgeons' News*, together with a series of blogs and talking heads on surgical and dental topics in this area.

TRAINING COURSES

These include the highly successful NOTSS Programme, PINTS Course and DeNTS Course, which aim to educate the whole perioperative team in non-technical skills (teamwork, communication, situation awareness and leadership) that underpin safe operative surgery and dentistry. The innovative ICONS Workshop, developed with patients, provides training in sharing the complex decisions involved in informed consent.

The Addressing Conflict in Surgical Teams Course explores causes of conflict within the surgical workplace and discusses different strategies to address this, including how to have difficult conversations, the art of negotiation and how to approach a challenging situation.

The Team Based Quality Review Workshop provides advice for surgical and dental teams undertaking adverse event reviews. Support is provided on how to follow a system-based approach, capture multiple perspectives from the wider healthcare team as well as patients, maximise learning and, importantly, ensure a non-threatening atmosphere and blame-free culture.

The Helping Surgeons When Things Go Wrong Course explores the impact of mistakes on all those involved; looking at how best to support and prepare each other; and how we might appropriately respond to patients and their families in the aftermath. Making and living with mistakes is a core part of what it means to be a surgeon, yet it is seldom discussed.

WEB-BASED RESOURCES

These include the Surgical Ward Round Toolkit, which aims to reduce errors and improve safety.

PATIENT SAFETY WEBINARS

This popular 10-part series features contributions from renowned experts in the patient safety arena, drawn from a wide range of disciplines.

LET'S TALK SURGERY PATIENT SAFETY PODCASTS

The College's patient safety podcast series allows in-depth personal discussion with patient safety experts on a range of subjects (see page 31).

SURGEONS' NEWS ARTICLES

The Patient Safety Group has published many articles in *Surgeons' News*, covering a broad range of topics, along with articles highlighting the work of NCEPOD and charity Patient Safety Learning.

MSc IN PATIENT SAFETY AND CLINICAL HUMAN FACTORS

We have worked with the University of Edinburgh as part of the Edinburgh Surgery Online Programme to develop an MSc in Patient Safety and Clinical Human Factors. This three-year part-time programme supports any graduate healthcare professional in using evidence-based tools to

improve the safety of everyday healthcare systems.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

These include the very successful Lets Remove It campaign, running since 2017, to reduce bullying and undermining and its detrimental effect on patient safety.

NATIONAL GUIDELINES

The College has developed several national guidelines to influence healthcare policy and improve the working environment, such as Improving the Working Environment for Safe Surgical Care and Improving Safety Out of Hours.

PATIENT AND CARER SUPPORT

The Patient Safety Group has developed high-quality, innovative and accessible resources to help patients and their carers better navigate surgical care and empower them to be advocates for their health.

STAFF RESILIENCE AND WELLBEING

We recognise that staff resilience and wellbeing is a key factor in helping ensure safe patient care, and this has been a major recent focus for the College. The College Trainees' Committee has taken the lead and the Patient Safety Group have been proud to support them in this endeavour.

The Committee has run successful wellbeing weeks over the last four years. These raised the awareness of the importance of wellbeing among all members of the surgical team and included activities such as webinars, virtual workshops and sessions on cooking, mindfulness, yoga, art and how to make work fun. CPD points for the webinars in the series were provided, underlining the value the College places on this subject.

The College's Moon and Back campaign, launched in 2021, encourages all members of the surgical team to take time out of their schedules to focus on mental health.

Please visit the College's website and social media channels for more information. It is great to be able to share these resources with you during the WPSD campaign and help raise awareness of the importance of patient safety in everyday surgical and dental practice.