



Patient Safety in General Surgery, Anesthesia and Other Specialties

General Surgery & Other Specialties

Many specialties, especially general surgery, have accepted the challenges the patient safety movement has put forth. Many of these efforts have significant relevance to cardiothoracic surgeons. The work done in anesthesia starting in the 1980s deserves separate attention. The first article by Rhodes is a superb summary of the topic while SCIP represents the effort of CMS and many other organizations to improve the safety and quality of surgery and is likely to be the basis, at least in part, of future pay for performance initiatives.

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Anesthesia

Anesthesia is the specialty often referred to as the one that systematically looked at its processes and, knowingly or unknowingly, applied some basic principles of human factor engineering to significantly decrease the risks of undergoing anesthesia. One of their main methods for assessing the problem was the use of Closed Claims Analysis under the leadership of Frederick W. Cheney, Jr., MD, by the [American Society of Anesthesiologists \(ASA\)](#). The web site is an excellent resource.

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