What is a safety huddle?

Safety huddles (or safety briefs) are short meetings used for sharing information about potential or existing safety problems. They increase safety awareness among front-line staff, allow for teams to address identified safety issues, and foster a culture of safety. Safety huddles should be designed so anyone in a senior position can call for and facilitate them.

Is there an evidence base?

Safety huddles have been shown to lead to improvements in safety areas such as the number of cardiac arrests, falls and observation compliance. Staff report a more cohesive culture and increased awareness of safety issues following implementation of safety huddles.

Beech ward huddle at 9am every day, 7 days a week. Each huddle lasts around 5 minutes. All ward staff, including consultants and junior medics, take part. Physiotherapists and occupational therapists attend the huddles, and feel they are a really useful forum for them to find out about patients.

For further information about safety huddles in the York NHS Trust contact Lisa Pinkney, Patient Safety Manager, on 7712860, lisa.pinkney@york.nhs.uk