

Protocolized handover process sustainable for reducing errors

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(HealthDay)—A protocolized handover process correlates with a

sustained reduction in the number of errors for children being transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU) after cardiac surgery, according to a study published online March 21 in *Pediatric Anesthesia*.

Kristin Chenault, M.D., from Northwestern University in Chicago, and colleagues examined the [sustainability](#) of a protocolized handover process from the [operating room](#) after cardiac surgery to the ICU for pediatric patients. Patient transitions from the operating room to the cardiac ICU were observed directly and the total number of errors (technical, information omissions, and realized errors) was recorded and compared across different times of the study. Overall, 119 handovers were studied: 41 pre-intervention, 38 post-intervention, and 40 in the current sustainability phase.

The researchers found that, compared with the pre-intervention and post-intervention phase, the mean number of technical errors was reduced in the sustainability phase (2.0 versus 6.0 and 2.5, respectively; P

"We demonstrate sustainability of an improved handover process using a checklist in children being transferred to the [intensive care unit](#) after [cardiac surgery](#)," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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