



What are Safety Huddles?

A **safety huddle** is a short, informal meeting that focuses on promoting safety, communication and preventing harm/injury (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2020; Safe Care BC, 2021). All team members are involved in safety huddles.

The goal of safety huddles is to share information, celebrate successes, brainstorm and highlight areas to follow-up on. Concerns raised during huddles can be directed to the appropriate person or team/committee for resolution.

Tips on Safety Huddles:

- Assign someone to lead/facilitate the huddle
- Be brief – gather for 15 minutes or less
- Encourage participants to stand – this increases the likelihood that the huddle will remain brief
- Regularly huddle (i.e., daily), at a consistent time and location in the service area/unit
- Incorporate your local quality board – have the huddle take place in front of it, refer to info displayed as a focus of the discussion
- Start with a reminder that the purpose is to increase awareness of safety, focus on improvements, and are non-punitive (no blame)
- If struggling to find a topic for a huddle – gather the group and ask each participant to share one positive observation and one concern about safety from that day or the day prior
- Encourage everyone to speak up

Safety Huddles work best when they are brief, focused and occur regularly

For more information on quality and patient safety, visit Health PEI's Staff Resource Centre at <https://src.healthpei.ca/patient-safety>