

What's New in the Patient Safety World

November 2023

TeamSTEPPS 3.0 is Here!

We've been huge fans of the TeamSTEPPS program since its inception. It's the team training program developed by the Department of Defense (DoD) in collaboration with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The free resources in this program have been rolled out to hundreds of hospitals and thousands of healthcare workers over the years. Its "Train the Trainer" approach has allowed healthcare organizations to send one or a few workers for training and then benefit from those workers training many workers back home.

The TeamSTEPPS™ resources include presentation modules, great videos of bad and good team interactions and communications, implementation and action planning tools, evaluation tools, a pocket guide and posters. Many of the resources are available online and others are provided on CD/DVD's. Topics covered include developing teams, use of briefs, brief checklists, huddles, debriefing, situation monitoring, cross monitoring, SBAR, handoffs, and others.

AHRQ recently announced the launch of TeamSTEPPS 3.0, the latest version of this highly successful program ([Umscheid 2023](#)). Several new features designed to keep pace with the ever-changing dynamics of healthcare delivery are included in the updated version:

- **Increased Patient Focus:** Training updates help increase the involvement of patients and family caregivers in care processes and decision making, including some new engagement methods, such as patient videos, simulation training, and a guide for patients and family caregivers.
- **Integrated TeamSTEPPS Platform:** The new TeamSTEPPS 3.0 curriculum consolidates content from prior versions that were created for separate care settings.
- **Modular Course Design:** TeamSTEPPS 3.0 can be taught in sessions of varying lengths to accommodate time constraints.
- **Active Learning Strategies:** Instead of passive lectures, the curriculum provides various teaching options including discussions, online group exercises, and video-based simulations.

- **Addressing Potential Team Challenges and Leveraging New Opportunities:** . TeamSTEPPS 3.0 emphasizes that the healthcare workforce is becoming more diverse and multigenerational as the technology to support healthcare delivery, such as instant messaging and telemedicine, is rapidly changing.

The [TeamSTEPPS 3.0 Curriculum Materials](#) are organized into modules:

- Introduction to Curriculum
- Module 1: Communication
- Module 2: Team Leadership
- Module 3: Situation Monitoring
- Module 4: Mutual Support
- Implementation of TeamSTEPPS 3.0

Yes, there are other teamwork training and crew resource management programs out there. But the TeamSTEPPS program is time-tested and, best of all, free!

References:

Umscheid C, Haugstetter M. With TeamSTEPPS 3.0, AHRQ Refreshes a Landmark Patient Safety Training Curriculum. AHRQ 2023; September 12, 2023
<https://www.ahrq.gov/news/blog/ahrqviews/teamstepps-30.html>
(Umscheid 2023)

AHRQ. TeamSTEPPS 3.0 Curriculum Materials. AHRQ July 2023
<https://www.ahrq.gov/teamstepps-program/curriculum/index.html>



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