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8 **Impact of teamwork and communication training interventions on safety culture and**
9 **patient safety in emergency departments: a systematic review**

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54 **Abstract (254 words)**

55 **Objectives:** To narratively summaries literature reporting on the effect of teamwork and
56 communication training interventions on culture and patient safety in emergency department (ED)
57 settings.

58 **Methods:** We searched PubMed, EMBASE, Psych Info CINAHL, Cochrane, Science Citation
59 Inc, Web of Science, and Educational Resources Information Centre for peer-reviewed journal
60 articles published from January 1, 1988, until June 8, 2018 that assessed teamwork and
61 communication interventions focusing on how they influence patient safety in the ED were
62 selected. One additional search update was performed in July 2019.

63 **Results:** Sixteen studies were included from 8,700 screened publications. The studies' design,
64 interventions, and evaluation methods varied widely. The most impactful ED training interventions
65 were End-of-Course Critique, TeamSTEPPS, and crisis resource management (CRM)-based
66 training. CRM and TeamSTEPPS CRM-based training curriculum were used in most of the
67 studies. Multiple tools, including the Kirkpatrick (KP) evaluation model, Agency for Healthcare
68 Research and Quality Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture, TeamSTEPPS Teamwork
69 Attitudes Questionnaire, the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire, and the Communication and
70 Teamwork Skills Assessment were used to assess the impact of such interventions. Improvements
71 in one of the domains of safety culture and related domains were found in all studies. Four
72 empirical studies established improvements in patient health outcomes that occurred following
73 simulation CRM training (KP4), but there was no effect on mortality.

74 **Conclusion:** Overall, teamwork and communication training interventions improve the safety
75 culture in ED settings and may positively affect patient outcome. The implementation of safety
76 culture programs may be considered to reduce incidence of medical errors and adverse events.

77 **Systematic review registration:** PROSPERO (CRD42016052544).

78 **Keywords:** Patient safety, safety culture, emergency department, communication.

79 **Introduction (3,997 words)**

80 Healthcare system is facing an increase of medical errors which are ranked as the third
81 main cause of mortality in the United States.¹⁻⁴ Reports have highlighted that medical errors result
82 from human errors related to poor communication and teamwork.^{1,5} Importantly, the majority of
83 these errors that are associated with communication problems are preventable.⁵

84 Safety culture entails as outcomes linked to people's attitudes, values, behaviour patterns,
85 perceptions, and competencies that define the individual or group commitment, style of
86 proficiency towards health and safety management within the organisation.⁶ Teamwork is a
87 combination of thoughts, behaviours, and feelings that help health providers work as one team and
88 continuously improve the quality of care.^{7,8} Its five components are referred to as the "big five"
89 and they are: team orientation, backup behaviour, mutual performance, team leadership, and
90 adaptability.⁷⁻⁹ Patient outcomes are correlated with patient safety, which is impacted by
91 teamwork.¹⁰

92 Implementing team development interventions is one of the most significant ways to
93 improve teamwork.¹¹ Four types of teamwork interventions have been identified: team building,
94 leadership training, team training, and team debriefing.¹² For many years, the aviation industry
95 used crew resource management (CRM), as team-based training approach for pilots. The aims of
96 CRM are to promote safety, improve teamwork behaviours, and reduce errors.¹³ Emergency care
97 and other clinical specialties, such as anaesthesiology and surgery, have similar characteristics
98 including high-risk and complex working environments.^{14,15} Studies have shown that successful
99 application of aviation-based teamwork, communication interventions such as CRM, simulation,
100 and checklists to dynamic or rapidly changing health care, specialties have led to improved

101 outcomes.^{14,15} Emergency Departments (EDs) are unique and dynamic healthcare units that are
102 particularly prone to communication and teamwork mishaps^{16,17} Thus, one of the major ED
103 challenges is achieving effective communication among the medical teams both within and outside
104 the ED to guarantee patient safety.^{16,17}

105 There are several published systematic reviews that have investigated team training
106 communication interventions within clinical care settings.^{9,11,18-25} These reviews suggest a
107 significant benefit of training interventions in improving teamwork among healthcare providers.
108 In the ED, the impact of these interventions on patient safety is currently under-investigated.^{18,23}
109 This systematic review narratively summaries literature reporting on the effect of teamwork and
110 communication training interventions on culture and patient safety in emergency department (ED)
111 settings

112

113 **Methods**

114 This review was conducted as recommended by PRISMA guidelines.²⁶

115 ***Protocol***

116 Based on PRISMA guidelines, investigators (MS, DL, JW, AB) created the review protocol
117 and a search strategy. The research question of the study was developed in accordance with the
118 key elements of PICO framework: Participants (P), Interventions (I), Comparison (C) and
119 Outcomes (O).²⁷ The protocol was registered in PROSPERO (CRD42016052544).

120

121 ***Selection criteria for eligibility***

122 All studies included in this review met the predetermined eligibility criteria.

123

124 *Inclusion criteria*

125 Peer-reviewed studies that were carried out in the ED setting and described teamwork and
126 communication interventions in an ED, pre-post intervention studies, randomized clinical trials,
127 and observational studies were included. Clinical staff like physicians and assistant physicians,
128 respiratory therapists, nurses, technicians, and paramedics were selected as the best subjects of the
129 study. All interventions to improve teamwork and communication, safety culture and safety
130 outcomes in an ED were included.

131

132 *Exclusion criteria*

133 Studies that lacked information on interventions, studies reporting interventions in non-ED
134 settings, review studies not focused on improving teamwork, studies not related to safety culture,
135 studies found in the grey literature, and studies written in non-English languages were not
136 included.

137

138 *Sources of data and strategy for literature search*

139 The literature search was performed in June 2018 and included studies published from
140 January 1st, 1988, until June 8th, 2018 in the following bibliographic databases: EMBASE,
141 PubMed, Psych Info CINAHL, Science Citation Inc, and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled
142 Trials. All references were transferred to the reference manager software F1000 Workspace.²⁸
143 References of eligible articles were manually reviewed for supplementary citations. The search
144 details are shown in Supplementary Online Appendix 1. The list of studies that met inclusion
145 criteria is available in Supplementary Online Appendix 2. Finally, a manual search on already
146 published systematic reviews of team-based training and communication was done to check for

147 appropriate references in the selected articles (Figure 1).²⁹ In addition, an updated search in
148 PubMed for the period of 2018/07/06 – 2019/07/05 was conducted to ensure inclusion of eventual
149 new studies published since the last search date before submitting the manuscript (Figure 1).

150

151 ***Selection process***

152 Two reviewers (MA, AB), specialists in emergency medicine, independently screened the
153 titles and abstracts. The selection was focused only on peer-reviewed published studies. The
154 reviewers read the full-text articles obtained and selected those that met all inclusion criteria. A
155 third author (DL) assisted in resolving any issues of disagreements through consensus agreement.

156

157 ***Data extraction***

158 Study characteristics were extracted: authors, publication year of the study, country,
159 objectives, research design, setting, study sample, features or attributes of the intervention,
160 evaluation instrument, response rate, statistical test, findings, effect, outcomes/conclusions, and
161 follow-up strategy. We reported whether studies showed a continuous improvement with a
162 sustained strategy of teamwork and communication after the implementation of the interventions.
163 Patient safety outcomes were collected by assessing adverse events like mortality and incidence
164 of clinical errors.

165

166 ***Quality assessment of studies***

167 Two assessors (MA and AB) independently rated the quality of the studies using the
168 Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS).³⁰ A star rating system was used to review the studies.³⁰ The
169 definition of “high quality” for the studies was settled as any study with a ranking equal or superior

170 (\geq) to 7 stars. In addition, if discrepancies presented, these were resolved through discussion and
171 consensus between the analysts.

172

173 ***Data synthesis***

174 A qualitative narrative synthesis was performed. It was structured around the different
175 strategies used by the studies for teamwork and communication improvements in the ED unit.

176

177 **Results**

178 ***Overview***

179 The search included 8,700 citations (Figure 1). Sixteen studies were selected by the
180 assessors based on the review criteria,³¹⁻⁴⁶ of which fifteen were performed in the U.S.³¹⁻⁴⁵ and one
181 was performed in Denmark.⁴⁶ Fourteen studies were performed in adult EDs,^{31-43,46} two studies
182 were performed in paediatric EDs,^{44,45} and four studies focused on ED trauma cases.^{32,33,44,45} Six
183 studies were observational survey studies,^{32,37,38,41,43,45} nine studies were designed as pre- and post-
184 study surveys,^{31,33-36,39,40,44,46} and one study was a randomized controlled trial (RCT).⁴² Details of
185 the included studies' characteristics are shown in Table 1.

186 For a better understanding, we divided our findings into different sections, including
187 *assessment tools, training interventions, safety culture improvement, and teamwork intervention*
188 *outcomes.*

189

190

191

Table 1. Characteristics of the selected studies

Study	Country	Study design	Sample size	Department	Intervention	Evaluation instrument
Hefner et al. ³⁸	USA	Observational survey study	784	Multi-departmental	CRM training	AHRQ Hospital Survey
Roberts et al. ⁴¹	USA	Observational longitudinal study	57 trauma teams	ED and surgery	Simulation	Changes in individual and team behaviors
Patterson et al. ⁴⁵	USA	Observational survey study	218	Pediatric ED	Simulation	Number and type of LSTs; Anesthetists' Non-Technical Skills scale
Morey et al. ⁴⁰	USA	Before-and-after observational survey study	1058	ED	Teamwork training	Staff Attitude and Opinion Survey Patient Satisfaction Survey
Jones et al. ³¹	USA	Before-and-after observational survey study	70	ED	TeamSTEPPS Essentials	AHRQ Hospital Survey
Lisbon et al. ³⁹	USA	Before-and-after observational survey study	Full staff	ED	TeamSTEPPS Fundamentals	Kirkpatrick's 4 levels of evaluation TeamSTEPPS Knowledge Test AHRQ Hospital Survey
Hughes et al. ³⁶	USA	Before-and-after	Not reported	ED	CRM training	Human Factors Attitude Survey

		observational survey study				
Grogan et al. ³³	USA	Before-and- after observational survey study	489	Multi- departmental including ED	Teamwork training	End-of-Course Critiques Human Factors Attitude Survey
Auerbach et al. ⁴⁴	USA	Before-and- after observational survey study	398	ED	Simulation	Trauma simulation evaluation tool
Miller et al. ³²	USA	Observational interrupted time series study	39	ED	Teamwork training	Clinical Teamwork Scale
Wong et al. ³⁷	USA	Observational survey study	62	ED	Simulation	Teamwork Attitudes Questionnaire HSOPS
Capella et al. ³⁵	USA	Before-and- after observational survey study	114	ED and surgery	TeamSTEPPS + simulation	Trauma Team Performance Observation Tool
Sweeney et al. ⁴³	USA	Observational survey study	203	ED	CRM training	Custom 12-item survey
Shapiro et al. ⁴²	USA	Randomized controlled trial	20	ED	CRM training + simulation	Team Dimensions Rating Form
Paltved et al. ⁴⁶	Denmark	Before-and- after	39	ED	Simulation	Safety Attitudes Questionnaire

		observational survey study				Trainee Reactions Score
Obenrader et al. ³⁴	USA	Before-and- after observational survey study	57	ED	TeamSTEPPS	TeamSTEPPS Teamwork Attitudes Questionnaire TeamSTEPPS Teamwork Perceptions Questionnaire Nursing Culture Assessment Tool

Table 1: Characteristics of the selected studies (Continued)

Study	Effect of the intervention	Group	Pre-treatment ^a	Post-treatment ^a	p-value	Post-treatment 2 ^a <i>Sustainability of the effect</i>	p-value	Qualitative assessment
Hefner et al. ³⁸	Handoffs & Transitions	Whole Sample	30%	40%	<0.05	NR	NR	Teamwork and communication improved following CRM
	Communication Openness		35%	45%	<0.05	NR	NR	
	Non-punitive Response to Errors		20%	29%	<0.05	NR	NR	
	Teamwork Within Units		71%	80%	<0.05	NR	NR	
Roberts et al. ⁴¹	Leadership	Whole sample	3.72 (0.36)	4.22 (0.67)	NS	NR	NR	Training exercises can improve teamwork and communication
	Leader clearly identifiable		3.78 (0.51)	3.83 (0.35)	NS	NR	NR	
	Cooperation		2.89 (.65)	3.94 (0.92)	0.01	NR	NR	
	Communication		2.56 (0.46)	3.50 (0.97)	0.015	NR	NR	
	Decision making		3.67 (0.71)	4.17 (0.97)	NS	NR	NR	
Patterson et al. ⁴⁵	Task management	Whole sample	NR	2.7 (1.1)	NR	NR	NR	Simulation reinforces team

	Teamwork		NR	2.6 (1.1)	NR	NR	NR	behaviors and communication
	Situation awareness		NR	2.5 (1.2)	NR	NR	NR	
	Decision making		NR	2.4 (1.2)	NR	NR	NR	
Morey et al. ⁴⁰	Clinical Error Rate	Experimental	30.9%	4.4%	0.039	NR	NR	The experimental group saw improved error rates and team behavior quality
		Control	16.8%	12.1%	0.081	NR	NR	
	Staff attitudes	Experimental	75.0%	78.5%	0.047	NR	NR	
		Control	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
	Staff assessment of institutional support	Experimental	NR	NR	0.04	NR	NR	
		Control	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
Jones et al. ³¹	Frequency of events	Whole sample	60%	70%	0.24	NR	NR	Training improved teamwork and safety culture
	Teamwork		64%	70%	0.36	NR	NR	
	Handoffs and transitions		43%	55%	NR	NR	NR	
Lisbon et al. ³⁹	Knowledge	Whole sample	NR	NR	< 0.05	NR	NR	TeamSTEPPS improved knowledge, attitudes, and communication
	Attitudes		NR	NR	< 0.05	NR	NR	
	Communication		NR	NR	< 0.05	NR	NR	
Hughes et al. ³⁶	HFAS	Whole sample	NR	NR	< 0.005	NR	NR	CRM improved team dynamics

								and communication
Grogan et al. ³³	ECC	Whole sample	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	CRM improved
	HFAS		NR	NR	< 0.01	NR	NR	patient safety through reduced error rate
Auerbach et al. ⁴⁴	Teamwork	Whole sample	NR	$\tau=0.512^c$	0.002	NR	NR	Simulation reinforces teamwork and trauma skills
	Performance		NR	$\tau=0.488^c$	0.002	NR	NR	
	Intubation		NR	$\tau=0.433^c$	0.012	NR	NR	
Miller et al. ³²	Communication	Baseline	5.3 (1.9)	NR	NR	NR	NR	Communication improved after ISS but was not retained after simulation termination
		Didactic	NR	6.3 (1.6)	0.147	NR	NR	
		ISS	NR	7.8 (0.4)	0.003	NR	NR	
		Decay	NR	6.0 (1.9)	0.407	NR	NR	
Wong et al. ³⁷	HSPSC	Whole sample						Simulation enhanced curriculum improved attitudes toward teamwork and safety culture
	Event reporting frequency		40.6%	40.6%	0.028	NR	NR	
	Teamwork		84.9%	84.9%	0.035	NR	NR	
	Handoffs and transitions		65.6%	65.6%	0.04	NR	NR	
	TAQ ^b							

	Team structure		NR	6.4%	< 0.0001	NR	NR	
	Leadership		NR	2.8%	< 0.029	NR	NR	
	Situation monitoring		NR	4%	< 0.014	NR	NR	
	Mutual support		NR	4%	<0.003	NR	NR	
Capella et al. 2010 [35]	Leadership	Whole sample	2.87	3.46	0.003	NR	NR	Team training via simulation improves performance
	Situation monitoring		3.3	3.9	0.009	NR	NR	
	Mutual support		3.4	3.96	0.004	NR	NR	
	Communication		2.9	3.46	0.001	NR	NR	
	Overall ratings		3.12	3.7	< 0.001	NR	NR	
Sweeney et al. ⁴³	Inter-staff communication	Whole sample	4.84 (1.99)	5.96 (1.9)	0.001	NR	NR	CRM simulation improves communication
	Staff-patient communication		5.29 (1.81)	6.22 (1.66)	0.001	NR	NR	
	Staff comfort providing feedback		4.65 (2.40)	5.24 (2.39)	0.001	NR	NR	
Shapiro et al. ⁴²	Teamwork behavior	Experimental	NR	NR	0.07	NR	NR	Simulation improves CRM team behaviors
		Control	NR	NR	0.55	NR	NR	

Paltved et al. ⁴⁶	Safety climate	Whole sample	25.74 (4.41)	26.59 (4.23)	< 0.001	NR	NR	ISS improves safety culture and teamwork
	Teamwork climate		19.9	20.6	< 0.05	NR	NR	
Obenrade r et al. ³⁴	<i>Communication</i>	Whole sample						Intervention improved teamwork and communication
	TTAQ		3.77 (0.03)	3.91 (0.07)	0.03	3.91 (0.07)	0.001	
	TTPQ		4.09 (0.01)	3.92 (0.02)	≤.001	4.58 (0.02)	≤.001	
	NCAT		6.273 (0.188)	6.364 (0.168)	0.54	7.500 (0.158)	≤.001	
	<i>Teamwork</i>							
	TTAQ		23.67 (0.732)	23.5 (0.471)	0.86	23.5 (0.245)	0.84	
	TTPQ		3.21 (0.13)	3.40 (0.115)	0.005	3.77 (0.78)	≤.001	
	NCAT		15.90 (0.534)	15.864 (0.385)	0.89	17 (0.406)	0.02	

^aData are presented as mean (SD) or Percentage

^bData are presented as % improvement

^cValues are regression coefficients

ED: Emergency Department; NR: Not Reported; ECC: End-of-course critique; HFAS: Human Factors

Attitude Survey; HSPSC: Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture NCAT: Nursing Culture Assessment

Tool; TAAQ: Teamwork Attitudes Questionnaire; TTAQ: TeamSTEPPS Teamwork Attitudes Questionnaire;

TTPQ: TeamSTEPPS Teamwork Perceptions Questionnaire;

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197 *Assessment tools used for the evaluation of teamwork and communication training*
198 *interventions*

199 The results of the assessment tools used in the selected studies are shown in Table 1.

200 *The Safety Attitudes Questionnaire*

201 The Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (SAQ) was adapted based on the Flight Management
202 Attitudes Questionnaire used in commercial aviation.^{47,48} It is composed of 60 items, and responses
203 were presented in the five-point Likert scale.^{47,48} One study reported results on the six categories
204 of the SAQ. The study findings showed significant benefits of teamwork training in the ED
205 (interstaff communication, staff-patient communication, staff's comfort with providing
206 feedback).⁴³ There was no significant increase reported among other categories following the
207 implementation of the training program.⁴³

208

209 *A survey to determine the safety culture of patients in the hospital*

210 The survey tool known as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
211 Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture (HSOPS) is a 42-item tool used to address the elements
212 of safety culture.⁴⁹ The AHRQ HSOPS was used in four studies.^{31,37-39} Knowledge, attitudes and
213 other communication styles had increased 45 days after baseline ($p < .05$) and had been sustained
214 by day 90.⁴⁰ The frequency about event reporting, transitions or handoffs, and teamwork in hospital
215 units also have improved significantly.^{31,37}

216

217 *TeamSTEPPS teamwork attitudes questionnaire*

218 The TeamSTEPPS (Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient
219 Safety) Teamwork Attitudes Questionnaire (T-TAQ) is a self-reporting instrument mainly
220 developed to assist in measuring attitudes of a person regarding the key components of teamwork
221 in a unit or department, captured within TeamSTEPPS.^{49,50} The aim of using the TeamSTEPPS
222 curriculum was to improve teamwork skills and communication skills, and to promote the safety
223 of patients and the safety culture. T-TAQ was employed in four studies.^{31,35,37,39} A study by Wong
224 et al.³⁷ showed statistically significant improvements in four out of the five T-TAQ constructs:
225 situation monitoring, team structure, mutual support, and leadership ($p < 0.05$). A significant
226 improvement in communication was also observed.³⁸

227

228 *The Anaesthetists' Non-Technical Skills (ANTS) system*

229 ANTS was designed to assist in assessing non-technical skills, mainly in anaesthesia. Such
230 skills include teamwork, decision-making, task management and situation awareness.⁵¹
231 Behaviours are evaluated using a four-point Likert style rating scale (0-4).⁵² Patterson et al.⁴⁵
232 showed high scores of 3 or 4 in improving behaviours during specific clinical situations. The
233 majority of teams scored 3 or 4 in task management (73%), teamwork (64%), situation awareness
234 (58%), and decision-making (58%).⁴⁵

235

236 *The End-of-Course Critique (ECC)*

237 The ECC is a tool measuringh participants' reaction to guidance or training, their perceived
238 training needs, and their alleged value of the newly developed skills, and it explains the expected
239 training opportunities in the future.³³ In Grogan et al. study,³³ it was found that 95% of the

240 respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statements that ECC training could minimise the
241 incidence of clinical medical errors during patient care.

242

243 *Human Factors Attitude Survey (HFAS)*

244 The HFAS is a pre- and post-training survey tool designed by the University of Texas and
245 NASA based on other surveys used in the aviation industry. It uses a standard 5-point Likert scale
246 from strongly agree to strongly disagree.^{52,53} Grogan et al.³³ showed that a training intervention
247 (CRM training emphasizing on six key areas: managing fatigue, creating and managing teams,
248 recognizing adverse situations, cross-checking and communication, decision making, and
249 performance feedback) significantly impacts the 20 items among 23 rated items of the HFAS
250 ($p < 0.01$). Hughes et al.³⁶ showed improvement in 15 questions among 23 questions used in the
251 post-HFAS survey scores ($p < 0.005$).

252

253 *Communication and Teamwork Skills Assessment (CATSA)*

254 The CATSA was designed to measure the communication and team skills of healthcare
255 providers on site. Specifically, the tool uses specific behaviour makers to measure situational
256 awareness.⁵⁴ Hughes et al.³⁶ used the CATSA to evaluate the effect of CRM training on various
257 skills required of the members of a team. The findings of Hughes et al.'s study showed significant
258 improvement in briefing by communicating the plan of care, selecting the potential team leader,
259 and allocating roles to members of the team. Cross-checking and updating members of the team
260 through face-to-face communication and sharing pertinent information showed statistically
261 significant improvements.³⁶ Briefing team members led to improved understanding of patients'
262 needs ($p < 0.05$).³⁶

263

264 *Clinical Teamwork Scale (CTS)*

265 The CTS is used to measure skills directly related to teamwork and communications.⁵⁶
266 Miller et al. used the CTS to evaluate in situ simulation (ISTS), which showed significant
267 improvement as demonstrated by 12 of 14 scores in the CTS measures during the ISTS phase;
268 however, the results on overall communication were statistically significantly different only when
269 comparisons were performed between all phases (pre-intervention, baseline, didactic, ISTS,
270 potential decay phase) ($p < 0.05$).³²

271

272 *Trauma Team Performance Observation Tool (TPOT)*

273 The TPOT includes 21 items which are graded on the Likert scale that consists of 1 to 5
274 dimensions, where 1 represents very poor and 5 represents excellent.⁵⁷ Capella et al.³⁵ found that
275 across teamwork domain ratings and overall ratings, there was a significant improvement from
276 pre-training to post-training in leadership, situation monitoring, mutual support, and
277 communication ($p < 0.005$).

278

279 *Others assessment tools*

280 Specific survey questionnaires were used for the interventions in Sweeney et al. study.⁴³
281 Their findings showed that simulation-based training programs which emphasised on CRM and
282 standardisation of patient encounters contributed to improved communication within the ED
283 setting. This improved communication was found between staff members and with patients.⁴³
284 Morey et al.⁴⁰ and Shapiro et al.⁴² used the Team Dimensions Rating Form.⁵⁶ Morey et al. ⁴⁰
285 showed a statistically significant improvement following clinicians' participation in the

286 Emergency Team Coordination Course in (ETCC) as indicated by teamwork quality, enhanced
287 attitudes toward teamwork among healthcare staff in ED, and reduced rates of clinical error rate,
288 pointing its effectiveness in reducing errors and improving attitudes regarding hospital team
289 members.⁴⁰ In Shapiro et al. study,⁴² there was no statistically significant improvement in the
290 quality of team behaviour in the simulation group (p=0.07) and no change in team behaviour in
291 the control group during the two observation periods (p=0.55).

292

293 *Training interventions*

294 Most of the training interventions focused on improving teamwork, communication, and
295 leadership. All studies used simulation training approaches, and nine studies showed that the
296 results followed the principles of CRM. Although there were significant variations in their
297 definitions and descriptions of CRM and how simulation was implemented, interventions showed
298 that CRM principles taught with simulation increased interprofessional education.^{31,33-36,38-40,42,43}
299 Five studies utilised TeamSTEPPS.^{31,35,37,39,43} . The Morey et al.⁴⁰ and Shapiro et al.⁴² studies
300 included educational curriculums based on CRM and the ETCC in the ED setting.

301

302 *Safety culture measurement and improvement*

303 The HSOPS, which is the most applicable tool used for safety culture measurement, was
304 used in four studies.^{31,37-39} Other questionnaires, such as the SAQ, T-TAQ, and ANTS, were also
305 applicable and were used to measure the impacts of teamwork intervention on safety culture. All
306 studies showed improvement in one of the safety culture domain or safety culture-related
307 improvements (leadership, communication, teamwork climate). Wong et al. found positive
308 improvement in scores for all dimensions except for continuous improvement or organisational

309 learning, and management support for patient safety in hospitals.³⁷ Jones et al., also showed a 9%
310 increase in the average score for positive replies following the implementation of training
311 interventions.³¹ Non-punitive error response showed a decline in the percentage of positive scores.
312 On the other hand, Hefner et al.³⁸ found a statistically significant increase in all HSOPS dimensions
313 ($p < 0.05$) except for staffing. In contrast, Lisbon et al.³⁹ showed a significant increase in all
314 HSOPS dimensions related to communication compared to baseline and reported no negative
315 response. Interestingly, Jones et al.³¹ and Hefner et al.³⁸ found that after the TeamSTEPPS
316 Fundamentals Course Training on teamwork skills that covered communication, mutual support,
317 team structure, leadership, and situation monitoring, course participants had an average increase
318 of 9% in positive responses for eleven of twelve safety culture survey components. In regard to
319 non-punitive response to medical error, the results demonstrated that the percentage of correct
320 response decreased, with 28% response after training compared to the 30% prior to training.
321 However, the study found no statistically significant difference in both pre- and post-training
322 scores.^{31,38}

323 In addition, Wong et al.³⁷ showed that the simulation in the TeamSTEPPS curriculum
324 enhanced interprofessional education and that the interventions were sustained within one year in
325 3 of the 6 safety culture survey dimensions related to teamwork and communication.³⁷ Conversely,
326 Hefner et al.³⁸ found an increase in 11 of 12 dimensions, while staffing scored 34% after training
327 compared with 36% before training.³⁸ CRM was found to have the potential of supporting a safety
328 culture and in minimising errors that affect patient safety in all the respondents.³⁸ In this instance,
329 CRM training seems to have significant impacts on teamwork and the communication domains of
330 safety culture in comparison to the supervisor and management dimensions.³⁸

331

332 *Teamwork intervention effects and outcomes*

333 *Kirkpatrick (KP) evaluation model*

334 The Kirkpatrick analysis and evaluation model is a tool composed of 12 learning outcomes
335 classified in four different levels.⁵⁸ It has been designed to assess the effectiveness of training
336 programs based on four levels ⁵⁸

337 All studies demonstrated that simulation-based training has a positive impact in terms of
338 KP 3 and 4. Ten studies^{31-33,37-41,44,46} showed an effect of simulation-based training on CRM
339 TeamSTEPPS and the ETCC on KP 3 in ED settings. In four of the reviewed studies, there was at
340 least some improvements in patient health outcomes in KP 4 following the implementation of
341 simulation CRM training but no effect on mortality.^{32,35,40,44}

342

343 *TeamSTEPPS teamwork attitudes questionnaire*

344 Five studies showed statistically significant improvement in scores for the five constructs
345 of the T-TAQ, demonstrating that using simulation not only significantly enhances health care
346 workers' attitude toward effective teamwork and communication behaviours but also directly
347 impacts teamwork processes and potentially affects patient safety outcome parameters.^{31,35,37,39} In
348 comparison with the control EDs, the experimental study showed an improved quality of
349 teamwork, better staff attitudes toward teamwork, and a reduction in the clinical error rates.⁴⁰

350

351 *Crew resource management training*

352 A study by Grogan et al.³³ showed comparable positive feedback from the staff. 86%
353 reported that the CRM training program improved the safety and quality of health and 95%
354 believed that it decreased the risk of medical errors.³³ Morey et al.⁴⁰ presented a proportional

355 relationship between teamwork integration in the work environment and leaders' level of
356 involvement. Shapiro et al.⁴² illustrated that adding educational curricula based on CRM and the
357 ETCC in the ED setting had a significant impact in improving teamwork behaviour and
358 engagement in healthcare environment.⁴² Roberts et al.⁴¹ showed individual or team changes in
359 behaviours (KP 3), demonstrating that team training enhanced situation awareness, care efficiency,
360 patient safety, team functioning, and mutual support.⁴¹ Paltved et al.⁴⁶ used the SAQ to evaluate
361 the impact of ISTS training and noted an increase in teamwork and in providers' attitudes
362 concerning safety.⁴⁷ The study showed that the safety climate is directly correlated with patient
363 safety.⁴⁶ Hughes et al.³⁶ showed that CRM training significantly improved team dynamics,
364 communication, and patient safety.

365

366 *Simulation-based training program*

367 Similarly, a training program based on simulation and designed to embed CRM principles
368 and techniques enabled significant perceived improvements reported by participants (KP 1) with
369 regards to communication between staff members. However, this rating increase showed no
370 evidence of a specific effect or improvement in clinical outcomes or safety parameters when these
371 were measured.⁴³ Patterson et al.⁴⁵ showed that in situ, multifaceted simulation-based training
372 could improve clinical care as well as the discovery of threats to patient safety and system issues
373 in clinical environment that are considered to be at higher risks of errors. Capella et al.³⁵ found
374 improved patient care following CRM simulation training. Additionally, Miller et al.³² and
375 Auerbach et al.⁴⁴ showed that airway management, determination of pelvic fracture, and
376 application of cervical spine precautions in patients with real trauma after adult ISTS were
377 improved.

378 Auerbach et al.⁴⁴ demonstrated as well improved teamwork, higher detection of latent
379 safety threats and higher levels of satisfaction among participants. Finally, Miller et al. study³² also
380 demonstrated that in ISTS program, there were significant associated improvements in overall
381 communication and teamwork in clinical settings, however the improvement was not maintained
382 when ISTS was discontinued.³²

383 In some studies, conflicting results among studies were found in skill maintenance. In
384 Miller et al. study,³² sharing of CRM skills in the clinical working environment showed no
385 evidence of sustainability after one month, while the transfer was retained up to a year in Wong et
386 al. study.³⁷ Lisbon et al.³⁹ found that there was an improvement on attitudes and knowledge during
387 45 days after baseline ($p < .05$), maintaining this improvement 90 days after training.

388

389 *Quality of the studies*

390 Table 2 presents the quality of the studies according to the NOS marking criteria.³⁰ The
391 scores obtained on the NOS range from 6 to 9. According to this evaluation, the quality of the
392 studies is intermediate to high. The overall average NOS score was 6.9, so we consider the quality
393 of the studies to be intermediate.

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401 **Table 2. Quality assessment of the studies.** The Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale
 402 consists of 4 items on study selection, 1 item on comparability and 3 items on study outcomes.
 403 According to this scale, studies can be awarded one star for each of the 4 items on selection and
 404 for each of the 3 items on outcomes and a maximum of 2 stars for comparability. Stars are
 405 awarded such that the highest-quality studies are awarded up to nine stars.

Authors	Selection				Comparability of cohorts	Outcome			Total score
	Representative of Selection of Ascertainment Outcome of		Assessment Length of Adequacy of	
Hefner et al. ³⁸ USA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8
Roberts et al. ⁴¹ USA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		7
Patterson et al. ⁴⁵ USA	*	*	*	*	*	*			6
Morey et al. ⁴⁰ USA	**	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9
Jones et al. ³¹ USA	*	*	*	*	*	*			6
Lisbon et al. ³⁹ USA	*	*	*	*	*	*			6

Hughes et al. ³⁶ USA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8
Grogan et al. ³³ USA	*	*	*	*	*	*			6
Auerbach et al. ⁴⁴ USA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		7
Miller et al. ³² USA	*	*	*	*	*	*			6
Wong et al. ³⁷ USA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8
Capella et al. ³⁵ USA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		7
Sweeney et al. ⁴³ USA	*	*	*	*	*	*			6
Shapiro et al. ⁴² USA	*	*	*	*	*	**	*		8
Paltved et al. ⁴⁶ Denmark	*	*	*	*	*	*			6
Obenrader et al. ³⁴	*	*	*	*	*	*			6

406

407

408 **Discussion**

409 The principal aim of our systematic review was to explore the effects of evidence-based
410 team training interventions on patient safety culture and outcomes within the ED setting. Sixteen
411 studies were found which were overall rated as intermediate quality. All studies showed
412 improvements in at least one level of the Kirkpatrick framework, often levels 3 or 4.⁵⁷⁻⁶²

413 We found that participants' reactions to trainings across studies were positive, with
414 improved professional behaviour, knowledge, engagement and attitudes. Moreover, the overall
415 objectives of the trainings were met. Participants reported enjoying the trainings and believed them
416 to be relevant and valuable in the improvement of teamwork, communication and patient
417 safety.^{31,36,38,39,41-43,45} Our findings agree with previous systematic reviews exploring other
418 healthcare settings in which the implementation of a safety culture with interventions like
419 teamwork and leadership training was crucial in improving patient safety outcomes.¹⁸⁻²⁴ CRM
420 training emphasises behaviours and requires specific interventions that focus on teamwork,
421 communication, workload management, stress and fatigue management, leadership, decision-
422 making, and recognises adverse situations.^{32-35,40,43,63} It is suggested that CRM simulation-based
423 training could have a significant influence on the improvement of communication among staff and
424 with patients, and staff satisfaction while reducing clinical errors in the ED setting.^{32-35,40,43}
425 However, evidence concerning CRM training and its impacts on patient safety outcomes and
426 mortality over the long term was lacking. Most of the studies focused on improving non-technical
427 skills, leadership, and teamwork rather than safety culture or patient safety outcomes. We found
428 heterogeneity in the outcomes described in the selected studies using the Kirkpatrick framework.
429 It is possible that the Kirkpatrick model did not meet all outcomes after simulation training
430 programs in the ED setting.^{57,62,64} We found that in all studies, the authors used approaches that

431 were similar to real-life situations. Safety culture is a sub-component of organisational culture, and
432 it reveals common behaviours, attitudes, beliefs, and values toward goals, which differ among
433 individuals. The safety culture can be influenced by different types of interventions to enhance
434 teamwork.^{63,65} The most successful programs that show evidence of positive impact of team
435 training interventions in the ED setting are ECC and TeamSTEPPS CRM-based training. A
436 multicenter prospective study that involved ETCC training in nine ED settings showed that team
437 attitudes and perceptions about communication was improved.⁴¹ Also, there was an increase in
438 questionnaire scores TeamSTEPPS implementation in an academic ED improved knowledge,
439 attitudes, behaviour, and patient outcomes in levels 3 and 4 of the Kirkpatrick model.^{31,35,37,39}
440 However, these studies did not determine which specific intervention was most successful in
441 improving safety culture and patient safety.

442 Our findings suggest that noticeable changes in culture can result from team improvement
443 strategies that combine several intervention methods. These need to be adapted to the participants'
444 learning styles but also to the actual issues that are being addressed and resources available.^{66,67}

445 Because any intervention, including an evidence-based validated and standardised
446 intervention, cannot be considered to be also successful in all each healthcare settings. It may be
447 appropriate to propose actions based on a particular domain within the organisation, including
448 teamwork, communication, and safety culture, where performance suggests a broad gap. CRM
449 simulation-based training for ED teams may result in a significant reduction in clinical errors,
450 without an increase in caregiver workload, and improve the safety culture behaviour in ED
451 settings.^{40-45,68-70} Descriptions of needs assessments, planning, trainings, outcomes and follow-ups
452 are brief in most studies, which can be a challenge in comparing or synthesising them.

453 Furthermore, a significant number of factors must be taken into consideration when recommending
454 the type of training that should be implemented and how.

455

456 ***Limitations***

457 We extensively reviewed the studies which reported interventions and their impacts on
458 patient safety and safety culture within ED settings. We found that training interventions on
459 teamwork and communication may improve patient safety and safety culture. Nevertheless, our
460 systematic review had several limitations. The variety of interventions and evaluation methods
461 prohibited meta-analysis. The studies published in English only were included and the grey
462 literature was excluded, which may have limited the strength of our review.

463 We narratively summaries peer-reviewed studies to gather scientific evidence on how team
464 and communication training impacts patients and safety culture. Furthermore, 15 out of 16 studies
465 were conducted in the U.S., which could limit the generalization of the results.

466

467 ***Conclusion***

468 Overall, our systematic review suggests that training interventions on teamwork and
469 communication may improve the culture of safety and patient safety in the ED setting. The
470 adoption of safety culture programs in the EDs must be considered to reduce medical errors and
471 adverse events. There is a need for further research focused on assessing multi-professional
472 teamwork and communication skills to ensure a better understanding of team performance and
473 propose relevant solutions that would improve patient safety in the ED setting.

474

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478 **Data sharing statement:** The data generated by our systematic review will be available in a public,
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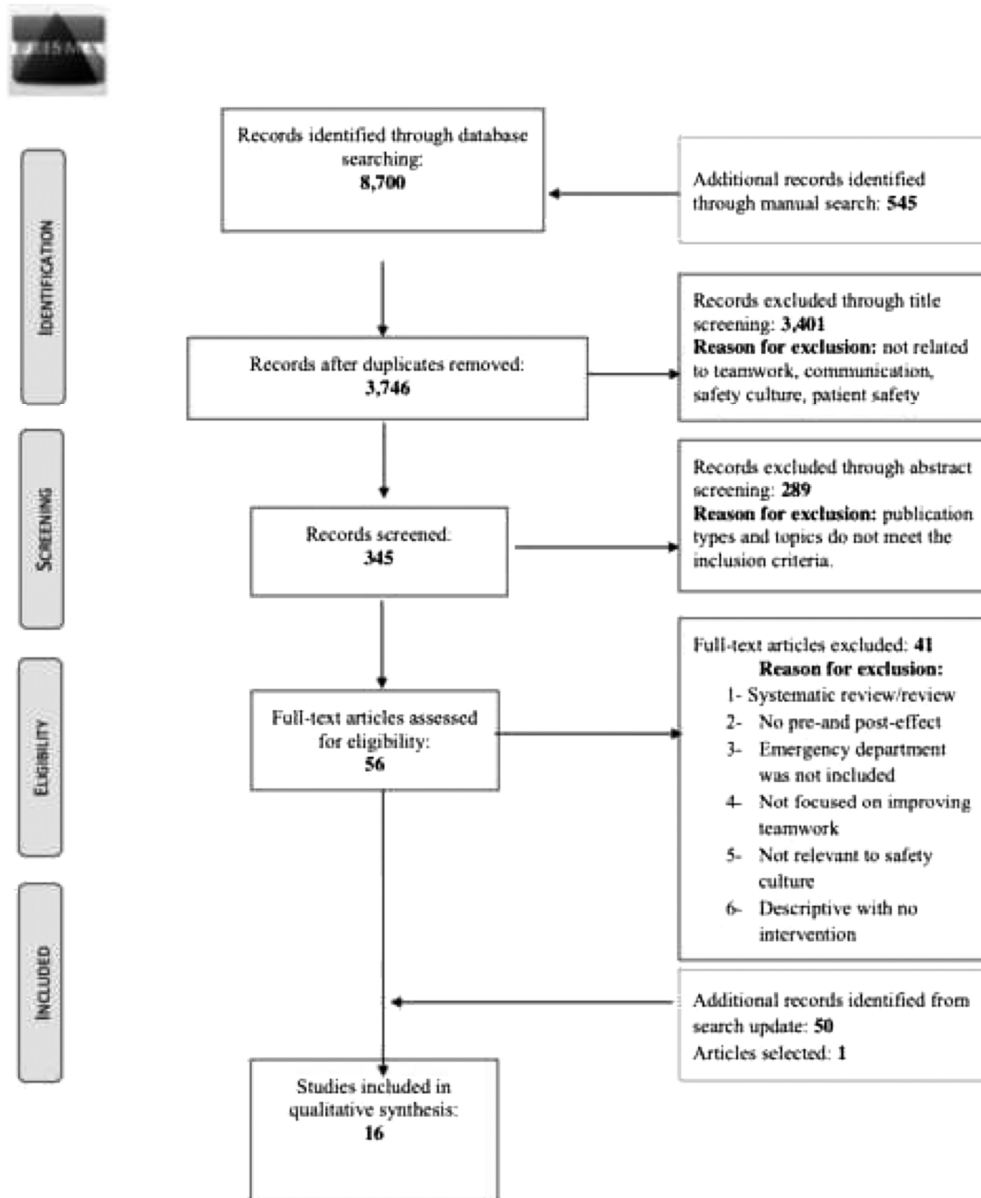
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- 650

651 **Figure legends**

652 Figure 1. PRISMA flow diagram of selection of studies for inclusion.

653



654