The Problem

- Ineffective communication between healthcare team members is a leading cause of surgical errors and poor patient outcomes
- Surgical timeouts and checklists are recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Well designed communication checklists can:
  - Eliminate ambiguity
  - Improve adherence to best practices
  - Promote team communication

Project Goal

Behavior Change:
- Standardize use of the post-operative debrief after every neurosurgical case

Project Outcomes:
- Improve OR safety culture and attitudes
- Improve number of cases with OR efficiency problems documented
- **Resident goal to perform post-op debrief in 80% of cases in 9 of 12 months**

Project Impact:
- Improve patient-level quality and cost indicators including:
  - SSIs; Post-operative CVAs; Unexpected return to OR; Cost and Mortality
  - Observed/Expected Index; Improve OR efficiency, identify sources of delays, problems.

Results

Post-Operative Debrief

**Timeouts save lives!**

**Surgeon:**
- Procedure(s) performed and wound classification
- Surgical events, clinical concerns, and EBL
- Instructions for post-op patient management (e.g. labs, imaging)

**Anesthesia:**
- Anesthesia events, clinical concerns
- I/Os, significant labs, meds and need for re-dosing
- Airway management

**Nursing:**
- Nursing clinical concerns
- Specimen handling and labeling verified
- Surgical counts (sponges, needles, instruments, etc.)

**OR team members:**
- Subspecialist(s) monitoring results
- Equipment or efficiency concerns

Figure 1: Postop Debrief Components

Results

**Figure 3: Issues Identified at Post-op Debrief**

- 546 issues identified in 1533 cases
- 75% of issues resulted in a case delay

**Categories as a % of All Problems (N=546)**

- Missing Documentation: 9.5%
- Surgeon/Anesthesia talking with patient: 5.3%
- Difficult IV/line start: 5.9%
- Patient factors: 4.6%
- Personnel issue: 8.8%
- Patient Flow: 7.7%
- Personnel issue: 8.4%
- Booking/Preference: 9.5%
- Equipment failure: 16.8%
- II: 12.8%
- Material Services: 3.7%
- Equipment: 4.6%
- Material Services: 4.0%
- Other not specified above: 9.5%

**Resident QI Project:**
- **Achieved goal of > 80% of cases with post-op debrief in 9 of 12 months**

**On-going Outcomes:**
- Continued tracking of debrief in final three months
- OR staff survey will be sent July 1, 2015 to assess improvement in OR staff communication and compared to results from baseline survey done spring 2014 prior to implementing post-op debrief

**Project Impact:**
- Debrief now being incorporated on all UCSF services and throughout UC system state-wide