

FROM PIT STOP TO ICU

Here are a few of the ways that physicians at hospitals in London, Boston, San Francisco and elsewhere have changed patient handoff protocols based on how Formula One pit crews operate.

Safety theme	Formula One	Old medical practice	New medical practice
Leadership	The “lollipop man” coordinates pit stop	Unclear who was in charge	Anesthesiologist given coordination responsibility, then transferred to intensivist when handoff ends
Task sequence	Clear rhythm, order to events	Inconsistent and nonsequential	Three defined phases of equipment and technology handoff, information handoff, discussion and plan
Checklists	Well-established culture of using checklists	None	Checklist defined and used as admission note by receiving team
Training	Fanatical approach to training and repetition of pit stop	No training existed	Protocol can be learned in 30 minutes; formal training is introduced and laminated training sheets detailing process are provided at bedside

SOURCE: “PATIENT HANDOVER FROM SURGERY TO INTENSIVE CARE: USING FORMULA 1 PIT-STOP AND AVIATION MODELS TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND QUALITY,” *PEDIATRIC ANESTHESIA*, MAY 2007