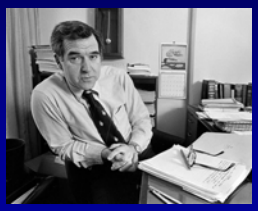
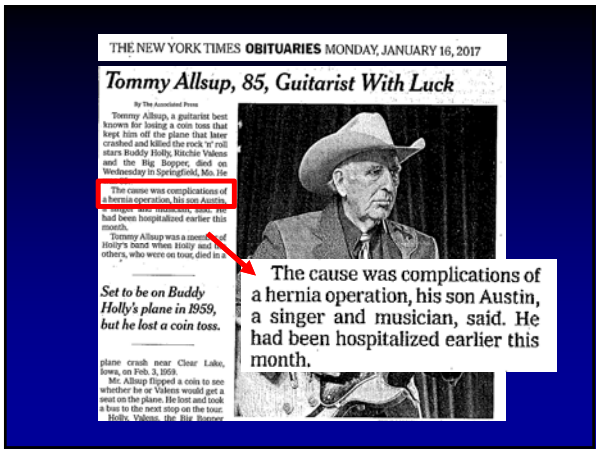
Why our current patient safety protocols are unsafe

Philip F. Stahel, MD, FACS
Department of Orthopedics
Denver Health Medical Center

"There are many forces coming together to harm or even kill the patient - their physician should <u>not</u> be one of them!"



Arnold Relman, MD
(1923-2014)
Editor-in-Chief emeritus
N. Engl. J. Med.



THE NEW YORK TIMES **OBITUARIES** MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017

Tommy Allsup, 85, Guitarist With Luck

By The Associated Press

Tommy Allsup, a guitarist best known for losing a coin toss that kept him off the plane that later crashed and killed the rock 'n' roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper, died on Wednesday in Springfield, Mo. He

The cause was complications of a hernia operation, his son Austin,

had been hospitalized earlier this month.

Tommy Allsup was a member of Holly's band when Holly and the others, who were on tour, died in a

Set to be on Buddy Holly's plane in 1959, but he lost a coin toss.

plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa, on Feb. 3, 1959.

Mr. Allsup flipped a coin to see whether he or Valens would get a seat on the plane. He lost and took a bus to the next stop on the tour. Holly, Valens, the Big Bopper

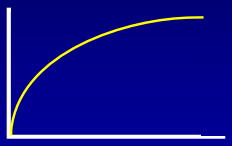
The cause was complications of a hernia operation, his son Austin, a singer and musician, said. He had been hospitalized earlier this month.

2ND TITAN FIRING FAILS

Plane Crash Kills 3 Rock 'n' Roll Idols

MASON CITY, Iowa (AP)—Three rock 'n' roll singing idols, whose records and appearances stir[red] millions of fans, were killed early yesterday in a cold, snow-swept Iowa field. The four-place plane carrying the trio and their pilot crashed within minutes after

Learning curve



"Accidents do not occur because people gamble and lose; they occur because people do not believe that the accident about to occur is at all possible!"

Reason J: "Human Error", *Cambridge University Press (*1990)

Anecdotal example of an unsafe protocol:

System error =

Latent condition

+

Triggering event

What's the annual collapse rate of buildings in the US?

0.00002% !

"The biggest cause of serious error in this business is a failure of communication"

Patterns of Communication Breakdowns Resulting in Injury to Surgical Patients

Caprice C Greenberg, MD, MPH, Scott E Regenbogen, MD, David M Studdert, LLB, SCD, MPH, Stuart R Lipsitz, SCD, Selwyn O Rogers, MD, MPH, FACS, Michael J Zinner, MD, FACS, Atul A Gawande, MD, MPH, FACS

- 258 claims involving an error leading to surgical patient injury
- Main root cause attributed to a communication breakdown!

Greenberg et al., *J. Am. Coll. Surg.* 2007, 204:533-40.

Standardized communication in surgery?


FEATURE

The tenth year of the "Universal Protocol": *are our patients safer today?*

Stahel PF, *Bone&Joint*[360] 2014, 3:7-10.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Wrong-Site and Wrong-Patient Procedures in the Universal Protocol Era

Analysis of a Prospective Database of Physician Self-reported Occurrences

Philip F. Stahel, MD; Allison L. Sabel, MD, PhD, MPH; Michael S. Victoroff, MD; Jeffrey Varnell, MD; Alan Lembitz, MD; Dennis J. Boyle, MD; Ted J. Clarke, MD; Wade R. Smith, MD; Philip S. Mehler, MD

- COPIC database (Colorado)
- 2002 – 2007
- *n*= 27,370 reports (~ 6,000 physicians)

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Wrong-Site and Wrong-Patient Procedures in the Universal Protocol Era

Analysis of a Prospective Database of Physician Self-reported Occurrences

Philip F. Stahel, MD; Allison L. Sabel, MD, PhD, MPH; Michael S. Victoroff, MD; Jeffrey Varnell, MD; Ted J. Clarke, MD; Wade R. Smith, MD; Philip S. Mehler, MD

- 107 wrong site procedures
- 25 wrong patient procedures

Stahel PF et al., *Arch. Surg.* 2010, 145: 978-84.

Stahel PF et al., *Arch. Surg.* 2010, 145: 978-84.

What does the "time-out" look like at your hospital?

The "sterile cockpit" analogy?

Patient safety in surgery:

Where is the "golden bullet"?

1. Individual accountability!

Why is the meat packing industry safer than our hospitals?

2. Role modeling!

What we permit, we promote!

3. Credible leadership!

No excuses, no exceptions...

Where is the "golden bullet"?

- From a culture of blame& shame…
- To "The System"…
- To a culture of accountability…
- To a culture of patient-centered care!

"Nothing about me without me!"

"The best interest of the patient is the only interest to be considered!"
William J. Mayo