

The Team STEPPS principles should and must be incorporated into medical practice to ensure safety and care for all patients. These principles include Team Structure, Leadership, Situation Monitoring, Mutual Support and Communication. Through incorporating ideas such as ensuring effective communication and team collaboration, providers can best fulfill their duties and successfully treat patients and bring them back to health. In the first video which I watched, Sue Sheridan recounts her traumatic experience with healthcare. Her son, Cal, was born as a healthy young baby boy, although slightly jaundice. Despite her concerns, a bilirubin test was not done and he continued to become more and more yellow. Each time she reached out to the hospital or the pediatrician she was told she was likely extra nervous because she was a new mother and was reminded to keep him near sunlight and look out for any changes. Finally, Cal was admitted to the pediatrics unit in which his bilirubin resulted in one of the highest the hospital had ever seen. Tragically, medical errors continued and Cal developed brain damage. Furthermore, Sue shares the devastating experience when her husband's cancerous tumor was not properly diagnosed. Intervention was too late and he died a few months later. This video emphasizes the critical need for medical providers to collaborate as a team, as well as take responsibility for patient care. Providers must listen to patients and practice communication within their team as well as with patients. In an analysis published by BMJ, a staggering 1/3 deaths in the United States is suggested to be due to medical error.

Team STEPPS aims to minimize these terrifying statistics and enhance collaboration and communication amongst the members of a medical team. Through focusing on Situation Monitoring, individuals on a team can practice observing patients and noticing any changes. When a matter of concern is noticed, the individual on the team - no matter his position - should be sure to notify others and ensure that the matter is addressed promptly. This idea was seen in the video of the medical technologist. When he noticed that Ms. Everett was not her usual self, he took action and notified the nurse, encouraging her to assess Ms. Everett. Due to the medical technologist's diligence, effective communication, and situation monitoring the doctor was notified and Ms. Everett was treated promptly. It is evident that these practices can have significant life saving effects on patient lives. It is imperative that Team STEPPS is utilized properly to create an effective, successful, and trusted healthcare system.

References:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWd56QVL1VQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hgug-ShbqDs>

https://bbhosted.cuny.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-70669026-dt-content-rid-535701050_1/xid-535701050_1