



Non-technical Skills for Trainee Obstetricians & Gynaecologists

Scottish Centre for Simulation and Clinical Human Factors

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A few definitions

'Non-technical skills (NTS) are social, cognitive and personal skills that can enhance the way you or your staff carry out technical skills, tasks and procedures. By developing these skills, people in safety-critical roles can learn how to deal with a range of different situations.'

Rail Safety and Standards Board

'Non-technical skills are defined as pilots' attitudes and behaviors not directly related to aircraft control, systems control and standard operating procedures (SOPs). Classic examples of non-technical skills are in-cockpit authority, crew coordination and cooperation, communication, decision making, conflict and error management, stress and workload management, attention, vigilance, and confidence. In short, non-technical skills cover both the social and cognitive side of the pilot.'

Flight Safety Foundation

'Cognitive (eg decision making) and interpersonal (eg teamwork) skills. Paying attention to non-technical skills such as teamwork, leadership, situational awareness, decision making and communication will increase the likelihood of maintaining high levels of performance over time.'

Non-technical Skills for Surgeons, RCS (Ed), Version 1.2, 2006

'Crew Resource Management (CRM) [AKA NTS] has been defined as "*the cognitive, social and personal resource skills that complement technical skills and contribute to safe and efficient task performance*"'

*International Association of Oil and Gas Producers, IOGP, 2014
via www.HumanFactors101.com*

Some handy resources

- Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh www.rcsed.ac.uk
Search 'NOTSS'. Handbook available to download, eLearning resource
- www.humanfactors101.com
- www.rcog.org.uk
ePortfolio assessment forms available
guidance for assessment and expected behaviours available
'Improving Human Factors and Situational Awareness' mini-toolkit
- <https://www.civilitysaveslives.com>
resources available to print and display
- <https://improvement.nhs.uk> › documents › *sbar-communication-tool*
- <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/3408/quality-improvement-zone/qi-tools/sbar>
- <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/987/patient-safety-zone/human-factors/managing-error>
- Robson W (2016) Tools and techniques to improve teamwork and avoid patient harm. *Nursing Times*; 113: 1, 24-27.
- <https://www.rcem.ac.uk/docs/Safety/82i.%20Team-working.pdf>
The Safety Toolkit developed by The Royal College of Emergency Medicine
- <https://www.rcem.ac.uk/docs/External%20Guidance/ITIH%20R3%20Final.pdf>
Royal College of Physicians (2017) Improving Teams in Healthcare, Resource 3: team communication