



Beyond the Checklist: What Else Health Care Can Learn from Aviation Teamwork and Safety (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)

By Suzanne Gordon, Patrick Mendenhall, Bonnie Blair O'Connor

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The U.S. healthcare system is now spending many millions of dollars to improve "patient safety" and "inter-professional practice." Nevertheless, an estimated 100,000 patients still succumb to preventable medical errors or infections every year. How can health care providers reduce the terrible financial and human toll of medical errors and injuries that harm rather than heal?

Beyond the Checklist argues that lives could be saved and patient care enhanced by adapting the relevant lessons of aviation safety and teamwork. In response to a series of human-error caused crashes, the airline industry developed the system of job training and information sharing known as Crew Resource Management (CRM). Under the new industry-wide system of CRM, pilots, flight attendants, and ground crews now communicate and cooperate in ways that have greatly reduced the hazards of commercial air travel.

The coauthors of this book sought out the aviation professionals who made this transformation possible. *Beyond the Checklist* gives us an inside look at CRM training and shows how airline staff interaction that once suffered from the same dysfunction that too often undermines real teamwork in health care today has dramatically improved. Drawing on the experience of doctors, nurses, medical educators, and administrators, this book demonstrates how CRM can be adapted, more widely and effectively, to health care delivery.

The authors provide case studies of three institutions that have successfully incorporated CRM-like principles into the fabric of their clinical culture by embracing practices that promote common patient safety knowledge and skills. They infuse this study with their own diverse experience and collaborative spirit: Patrick Mendenhall is a commercial airline pilot who teaches CRM; Suzanne Gordon is a nationally known health care journalist, training consultant, and speaker on issues related to nursing; and Bonnie Blair O'Connor is an

ethnographer and medical educator who has spent more than two decades observing medical training and teamwork from the inside.

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- Sales Rank: #389559 in eBooks
- Published on: 2012-11-20
- Released on: 2012-11-20
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

"An excellent account of the history of crew resource management (CRM), its virtues, and how it's supposed to work, the book also delivers an eye-popping look beyond the supposedly sterile drapes in some of the United States' most prestigious hospitals. Approximately 100,000 patients die in the U.S. every year as a result of medical mistakes, and some of the behavior that goes on in the U.S. healthcare system, as described in the book, is appalling. 'Health care needs . . . a radical cultural transformation, like the one that has taken place in aviation over the past 30 years,' the authors argue persuasively. Three positive case studies show that it can be done."? Jan W. Steenblik, *Air Line Pilot* (July 2013)

"This book is full of information from air investigations and interesting facts. The first flight attendants, for example, had to be registered nurses in case any passengers became unwell. It shows that the everyday implementation of such things as checklists is part of a commitment by an industry to change the way it works. This commitment comes through leadership, but involves all the team, and is key for a nursing audience."?Dan Wolstenholme, *Nursing Standard* (July 2013)

"This is the fascinating story of the development and implementation of Crew Resource Management (CRM) in aviation and how it can and must be employed in health care. In spite of differences between aviation and health care, the similarities are more striking. Both are intrinsically hazardous endeavors, with complex technology, and dominated by one profession. Both developed a dysfunctional hierarchical culture that substantially increases risk for its customers and patients. Aviation has done something about it: CRM, with dramatic results. Flying is now incredibly safe. The lessons are clear, the cause is urgent, and the time has come for all health care organizations to act accordingly."?Lucian L. Leape, MD, Harvard School of Public Health

"This book is a revelation! Anyone who believes that toxic hierarchies and dangerously ineffective communication are inevitable in health care should think again. *Beyond the Checklist* heralds a new kind of hospital workplace?one that's already been flight-tested. The dysfunctions of our health care system are tragic and unnecessary, but they can be fixed. This book shows us how."?Theresa Brown, RN, clinical nurse and author of *Critical Care*

"*Beyond the Checklist* helps us understand that successfully providing safe and reliable care for our patients

requires a multifaceted approach. Mechanisms such as checklists need to be integrated with effective leadership, teamwork, knowledge about human factors, and continuous learning. This book provides valuable insights on a journey that will provide a better care experience for patients, their families, and the people providing care."?Michael W. Leonard, MD, Co-Chief Medical Officer of Pascal Metrics and Adjunct Professor of Medicine at Duke University

"*Beyond the Checklist* recognizes that it takes more than just the standardized execution of processes to create a culture of safety. As the authors reveal, the team intelligence needed in more hospitals can flourish only in a workplace environment where there is proper training, mutual respect, and real cooperation among coworkers."?Veda Shook, President, Association of Flight Attendants–CWA

"The deeper I progressed into this terrific book, the more embarrassed I became for my profession of medicine. Behind our casual assumption as airline customers that we will arrive safely lies an enormously complex process that addresses all human and system issues that could possibly affect safety in air travel. With a few notable exceptions, we in medicine do not come anywhere remotely close to where we need to be to assure our patients of this same kind of safety commitment. There can be no excuse for medicine not pursuing this same all-engaging, relentless process. Our patients deserve nothing less. This is a must-read book for anyone with any connection at all to the delivery of health care services."?Terry R. Rogers, MD, The Foundation for Health Care Quality

"*Beyond the Checklist* takes us behind an apparently simple tool to lay out the complex social and organizational transformation that makes the checklist effective in aviation and to argue for a similar top-to-bottom transformation of health care. By shifting our attention to the detailed, sustained, and careful work that will be required to make health care safer, the book moves us forward on a long, difficult, but ultimately rewarding journey."?Robert L. Wears, MD, University of Florida and Imperial College London

"*Beyond the Checklist* provides a timely and insightful assessment of crew resource management (CRM), a key tool for averting disaster in the airline industry. The authors make a compelling case for its application to health care delivery. This book should become an essential text for health care professionals, educators, and policymakers seeking to improve interprofessional training and practice."?Scott Reeves, University of California, San Francisco

"The ideas presented in this book are so clearly developed and the writing so engaging that its audience will not be limited to patient safety experts. Patients, their families, and health care providers of all kinds will also benefit from the authors' insight into hospital safety improvement. The case studies are rich in detail and full of critical reflections on the connection between quality care and optimally functioning teams. The tone of

Beyond the Checklist is hopeful but, for good reason, very urgent as well."?Sean P. Clarke, RN, PhD, FAAN, McGill University School of Nursing

"Some experts downplay the parallels between health care and aviation, but there is much we can learn from the system-wide change that greatly improved passenger safety on commercial airlines. This excellent book highlights the innovative programs of pioneering hospitals where better teamwork and effective communication guide every interaction?from the bedside to the boardroom."?Julia Hallisy, DDS, The Empowered Patient Coalition

"This important book brings both a sense of urgency and the hope of clarity in addressing a fundamental and widespread problem in health care. It is a must-read for clinicians and students who deliver care and a call for leadership from every member of the interprofessional team. Leadership is required to change the culture and systems of care delivery. *Beyond the Checklist* provides the inspiration and a path for that change."?Heather M. Young, RN, FAAN, Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, University of California, Davis

"*Beyond the Checklist* shows us that Crew Resource Management principles help us deal with our human inability to always perform 'perfectly' while operating in a complex work environment. Little mistakes in aviation compound into huge problems. In commercial airlines, virtual strangers routinely solve complex problems without making critical mistakes. The culture of CRM provides for this as a normal way of operation. If embraced by the field of medicine, it will totally transform the way the industry operates."?Captain Gregory S. Novotny

About the Author

Suzanne Gordon is coeditor of the Cornell University Press series *The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work* and was program leader of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation–funded Nurse Manager in Action Program. She is the author of *Nursing against the Odds* and *The Battle for Veterans' Healthcare*; coauthor of *From Silence to Voice*, *Life Support*, *Safety in Numbers*, *Beyond the Checklist*, and *Bedside Manners*; editor of *When Chicken Soup Isn't Enough*; and coeditor of *The Complexities of Care*, *First, Do Less Harm*, and *Collaborative Caring*, all from Cornell.

Patrick Mendenhall is a Principal in Crew Resource Management LLC who is a pilot for a major commercial airline and belongs to the Air Line Pilots Association.

Bonnie Blair O'Connor is Professor of Pediatrics (Clinical) and Associate Director, Pediatric Residency, at Hasbro Children's Hospital/Alpert Medical School at Brown University in Providence, R.I.

Users Review

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Shawn Midkiff:

The book *Beyond the Checklist: What Else Health Care Can Learn from Aviation Teamwork and Safety (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)* can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the good thing like a book *Beyond the Checklist: What Else Health Care Can Learn from Aviation Teamwork and Safety (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)*? Wide variety you have a different opinion about e-book. But one aim that book can give many facts for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or facts that you take for that, you can give for each other; you could share all of these. Book *Beyond the Checklist: What Else Health Care Can Learn from Aviation Teamwork and Safety (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)* has simple shape nevertheless, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can appearance the enormous world by open and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

Timothy McKinney:

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