

Guidance on the RCoA Quality Network's Prep, Stop, Block Project- launching 9 January 2023

What is the Prep Stop Block SOP?

Over the last 10 months or so, a lot of awareness has been raised about the [Prep, Stop, Block](#) which follows the previous 'Stop before you block' initiative to avoid wrong site regional blocks. Despite the campaign, the problem remains and wrong site blocks are still the commonest never event or adverse event reported:

- [Data from NHS England](#)
- [Data from NHS Wales](#)
- [Data from Healthcare Improvement Scotland](#)
- [Data from Northern Ireland Department of Health](#)

Why is the QIWG launching this project?

The College's Quality Improvement Working Group (QIWG) are launching a short, fast paced Prep Stop Block project to 'test the pipes' of the Quality Network to check if there are any gaps in the regional and local network, which we can then identify and fix before rolling out a larger project.

Due to the prominence of the Prep Stop Block campaign, the QIWG felt that most departments will already have done some work on this and so there should already be lots of resources out there to be shared. We are not expecting departments to create anything in response to the project, rather just share with us what their department already has. Departments can then benefit from learning what others have been doing to spread awareness of the SOP, such as local teaching sessions, creating posters, launching QI projects etc.

Project timeline:

December 2022	An MS Teams Channel for the Quality Network launched- the Regional Leads will receive a link to access the group from the College's QI Team.
9 January 2023	Project launch- An email will be sent to the Quality Network to confirm that the project has launched, with a deadline of the 30 January 2023 (3 weeks).
9-30 January 2023	Quality Network Regional Leads contact their local QI leads- regional leads are to send out a request for any resources in relation to the Prep Stop Block SOP, with a deadline of 30 Jan 2023 (can use the attached Appendix A- email template). Regions with two leads should ensure they coordinate the work together. When resources are received, the Quality Network Regional Lead should contact the College QI team on qualityimprovement@rcoa.ac.uk who will then upload the documents into a designated MS Teams channel folder/sharepoint folder for the region.

30 January 2023 onwards

Dissemination of resources across the local QI leads- The College's QI Team will confirm individually to Regional Leads when their resources have been successfully uploaded to an MS Teams channel folder/sharepoint folder and provide them with the link. Regional Leads should ensure all of the resources they have gathered during the project are subsequently shared amongst the local QI leads within their region (for example, by setting up their own sharepoint folder for local leads). Quality Network Regional Leads should also gather feedback from the local QI leads to assess how the project has gone.

7 February 2023

Quality Network meeting- Quality Network Regional Leads will attend the Quality Network meeting in London, where there will be an opportunity to discuss everyone's initial experience of the Prep Stop Block project. Further discussion will be facilitated via the Quality Network's MS Teams Channel.

Late February 2023

Discussions around producing a report of learning from the Prep Stop Block project- The QIWG will open discussions on the MS Teams Channel around learning from the project, to inform the production of a report. A virtual meeting might be scheduled if deemed useful. Regional Leads might also consider if arranging a virtual meeting for their local QI leads would be useful to facilitate further discussion.

**After Feb 2023-
Date TBC**

Report published on learning from the Prep Stop Block project- The QIWG will produce a report on learning from the Prep Stop Block project and disseminate across the Quality Network. This should include data on wrong site regional blocks. The report can also be circulated to local QI Leads to show the impact of their involvement in the project.

**Later in 2023-
Date TBC**

Launch of the second Quality Network project 'Unintended oesophageal intubation'- the QIWG will use learning from the Prep Stop Block project to launch this project.

Appendix A- Email to send to local QI Leads to launch the Prep, Stop, Block Project (**please action this on 9 Jan 2023**)

Note: This email is an example of what you may want to send to your local QI Leads but please feel free to adapt the wording as you see fit.

Subject line- RCoA QI Project Prep Stop Block- response requested by 30 Jan 2023

Dear QI Lead,

I am contacting you as your regional lead in the RCoA Quality Network to advise of a Prep Stop Block project we are launching.

The [RCoA Quality Network](#) was set up with the aim to share and spread best practice in quality improvement (QI), and support College members undertaking improvement work.

The network is launching a project to gather and share resources in relation to [Prep, Stop, Block](#). The Prep Stop Block campaign launched earlier in 2022 following the previous 'Stop before you block' initiative to avoid wrong site regional blocks, and we are aware that many departments have since carried out work to spread awareness.

Despite current efforts, the problem remains and wrong site blocks are still the commonest never event or adverse event reported:

- [Data from NHS England](#)
- [Data from NHS Wales](#)
- [Data from Healthcare Improvement Scotland](#)
- [Data from Northern Ireland Department of Health](#)

Therefore the Quality Network would like to support quality improvement initiatives by facilitating the sharing of resources across local regions. The Quality Network are not expecting departments to create anything in response to this project, rather just share with us what your department already has and any learning your department has had since the campaign was launched.

I would be grateful if you could please respond back to this email **by 30 January 2023**, with answers to the following questions:

- 1. Has your department implemented any improvement approaches as a result of the Prep Stop Block project? If yes, please provide an explanation.**
- 2. Please attach any resources that your department has developed that you are happy to be shared with other departments.**
Examples of resources that your department may have would be teaching slides, educational posters or audit templates. Please ensure that you have permission to share these resources, and that they do not include any sensitive information.
- 3. Were there any measures or practices that were implemented that worked particularly well? Do you have any tips to share with other departments?**
- 4. Equally, were there measures that did not work well? Were there challenges that your department encountered whilst implementing changes?**

Following the 30 January 2023, I will be able to circulate resources and learning across our region to support your department in preventing wrong site blocks. We also aim to facilitate further discussion on this topic. In addition, the College will be publishing a report later this year which will examine the learning from this project.

If you have any queries about this project, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Kind regards,
INSERT NAME HERE