

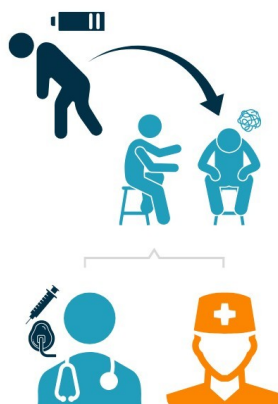
# Together Evaluating Activity & Morale Support (TEAMS)

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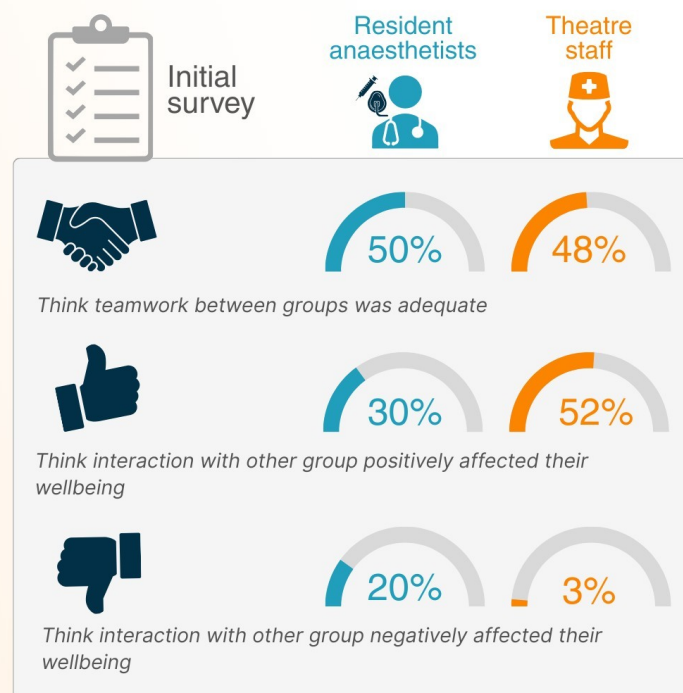
## Introduction

Poor wellbeing and burnout amongst healthcare staff are associated with poor patient outcomes<sup>1</sup>. National Health Service (NHS) and NHS Employers recommend consulting with staff directly on what they want and need as well as encouraging collective responsibility for a positive staff experience<sup>2</sup>. Resident anaesthetists maintain a close working relationship with operating theatre staff. However, it is not yet fully understood how effectively they operate as a team or how their interactions impact each other's wellbeing.



## Initial survey

We conducted a survey in September 2024 amongst resident anaesthetists and theatre staff using almost identical questionnaires and collected 38 responses.



Both groups mentioned joint teaching sessions as a tool to help improve teamworking and wellbeing. Following this, resident anaesthetists were invited to take part in the weekly theatre staff safety huddles. We then repeated this survey in February 2025 and collected 41 responses.



## Repeat survey

In our repeat survey, the percentage of resident anaesthetists who rated teamwork as good increased from 50% to 83%. The percentage of theatre staff who rated teamwork as excellent rose from 11% to 17% and no one rated teamwork as poor. 50% of resident doctors and 69% of theatre staff felt like joint audit sessions would improve team dynamics with the remaining respondents unsure.

Interactions between resident anaesthetists and theatre staff can affect wellbeing both negatively and positively. We have shown that joint safety huddles can improve perceptions of teamworking and wellbeing in both groups. We intend to pursue this further with joint audit sessions which will feature mandatory training and discussions on subjects that will affect both groups, such as emergency theatre list efficiency. We predict that further collaboration between the two groups will further enhance teamworking and wellbeing.



## Conclusion

Interactions between resident anaesthetists and theatre staff can affect wellbeing both negatively and positively. We have shown that joint safety huddles can improve perceptions of teamworking and wellbeing in both groups. We intend to pursue this further with joint audit sessions which will feature mandatory training and discussions on subjects that will affect both groups, such as emergency theatre list efficiency. We predict that further collaboration between the two groups will further enhance teamworking and wellbeing.

## References

1. Hall, L.H. et al. (2016) 'Healthcare staff wellbeing, Burnout, and Patient Safety: A Systematic Review', PLOS ONE, 11(7). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0159015.
2. Eight elements of positive staff experience (no date) NHS Employers. Available at: <https://www.nhsemployers.org/publications/eight-elements-positive-staff-experience> (Accessed: 06 April 2025).