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## Improving Documentation of the Critical View of Safety in Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy: Results from a Two-Cycle Audit

The Critical View of Safety (CVS) is a well-established technique designed to prevent bile duct injury during laparoscopic cholecystectomy. International guidelines, including those from SAGES, advocate explicit documentation of CVS in operative notes and/or through intraoperative imaging to enhance patient safety and medico-legal accountability. This two-cycle retrospective audit evaluated the quality of CVS documentation within a surgical department and assessed the impact of targeted quality improvement interventions. The first cycle (January–March 2024) revealed inconsistent adherence to recommended standards. Following this, surgeon education sessions were introduced, emphasizing the importance of documenting CVS explicitly and capturing intraoperative photo or video evidence. Routine integration of imaging was also implemented. The second audit cycle (September–October 2025) demonstrated notable improvement: CVS was explicitly mentioned in 86 percent of operative notes, photo or video documentation was present in 90 percent of cases, all three elements of CVS were described in 15 percent, and there were no conversions to open cholecystectomy or bile duct injuries. These results confirm that focused educational interventions and the adoption of intraoperative imaging can substantially improve documentation standards while supporting safer surgical practice. Persistent gaps in full element documentation highlight the need for standardized operative note templates and ongoing reinforcement. Overall, this audit illustrates that continuous education, structured documentation, and the routine use of imaging not only improve compliance with best practice guidelines but also strengthen patient safety and medico-legal protection in laparoscopic surgery.

### Biography

Stewart Chikukuza is a healthcare professional based in the United Kingdom and is currently affiliated with Great Western Hospital. He is committed to delivering high-quality patient care and supporting clinical services within his department. With a strong interest in advancing medical practice, Stewart continually develops his skills through hands-on clinical work, professional training, and active engagement in multidisciplinary healthcare teams.

Throughout his career, he has contributed to improving patient outcomes by applying evidence-based practice and maintaining a compassionate, patient-centred approach. Stewart is dedicated to continuous learning and remains involved in ongoing educational activities, clinical discussions, and institutional quality-improvement initiatives.

Driven by a passion for service and clinical excellence, he strives to enhance patient safety, support colleagues across various specialties, and contribute meaningfully to the broader healthcare community.