



SESSION 112

A Checklist Manifesto for the Rural ER Doc

Atul Gawande in his book *The Checklist Manifesto* says "...the volume and complexity of what we know has exceeded our individual ability to deliver its benefits correctly, safely, or reliably." He argues that checklists can improve the ability of medical professionals to deliver safer and more reliable care.

Though checklists are found everywhere in medicine (including life support algorithms, standardized admission orders, triage and nursing notes, anesthesia records, etc) the emergency department history and physical record remains a bastion of blank lines and space.

This talk will discuss how presentation-specific checklists can augment your history and physical to, as Gawande says, "...provide reminders of only the most critical and important steps--the ones that even the highly skilled professional using them could miss"

1. Discuss the presenter's journey towards using checklists for the ER history and physical.
2. Discuss the rationale for using checklists in the ER.
3. Review several examples of checklists used routinely by the presenter.
4. These include checklists for back pain, mental health, clinical decision rules, chest pain, eye complaints, etc.