

The PLUS Study

Improvement of Safety Culture in Swiss Healthcare Organisations

Study leaders:

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A strong safety culture saves lives and improves well-being

What is it about?

- Strengthening safety culture sustainably across the Swiss healthcare system.
- Testing and further developing the PLUS intervention.
- A study funded by the EQK and embedded in the National Quality Strategy.

Study scope and Impact

- Conducted in 10 healthcare organisations
- Findings will inform national recommendations and future safety culture policies
- Publication of results at national and international level

Benefits for participating organisations

- Systematically assess and strengthen safety culture
- Embed safety culture sustainably in everyday practice
- Receive expert guidance throughout the process
- Take a pioneering role within the Swiss healthcare system
- Contribute to national recommendations

The PLUS intervention enables:

- Implementation across diverse healthcare settings
- Sustainability in a dynamic environment
- Comparable measurements through established instruments

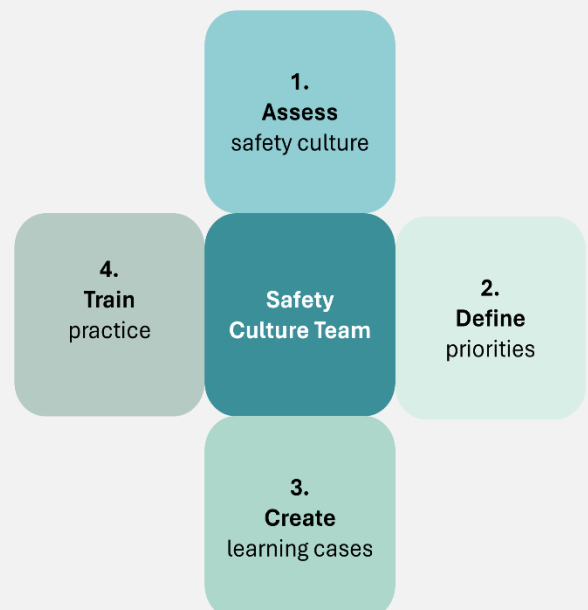
The PLUS Intervention (6 months)

Safety Culture Team

Brings together representatives from strategic leadership, clinical management, healthcare professionals, and quality management, with optional patient or peer representatives.

The team ensures open communication, embeds safety culture in daily practice, and coordinates all steps of the PLUS intervention.

Step	Key activities
1. Assess safety culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct safety culture survey• Evaluate maturity level
2. Define priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review results and define at least two improvement priorities
3. Create learning cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select relevant clinical cases based on the defined priorities• prepare them for learning and training
4. Train practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct joint training (basic training and learning cases)• Define concrete actions



Commissioned and funded by:

Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern EDI
Eidgenössische Qualitätskommission EQK

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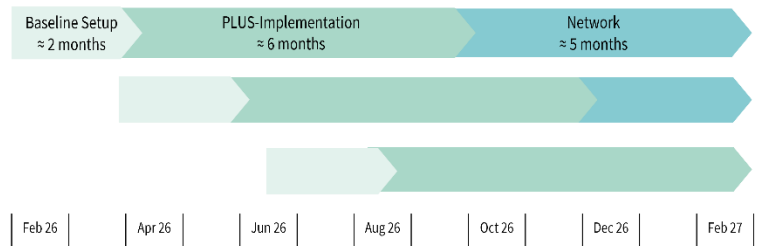
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Timeline

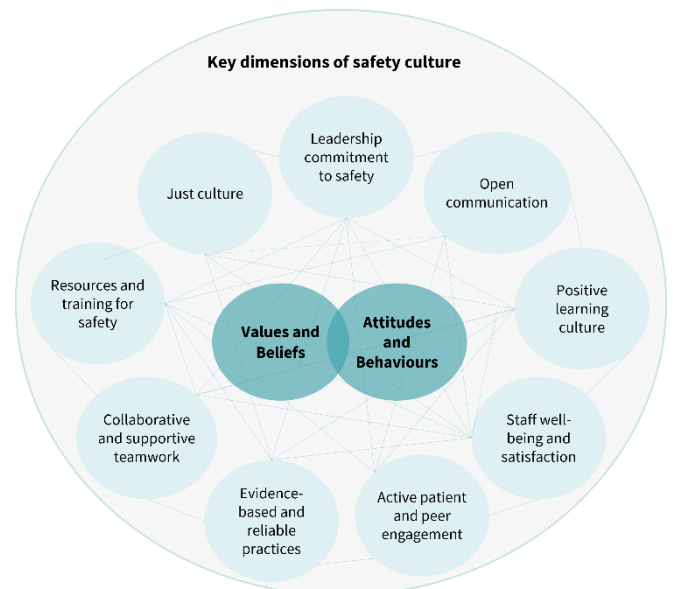
- Overall study period: February 2026 to February 2027
- Three-phase process: Baseline Setup (2 months), PLUS implementation (6 months), network phase (up to 5 months)
- Staggered start between February and July 2026
- Joint completion: February 2027

Staggered start of participating organisations



What is safety culture?

- It provides the foundation for safe care, open communication, shared learning, and continuous improvement.
- It is based on shared values, attitudes, and behaviours that determine how safety is lived and prioritised in everyday practice.
- It comprises nine dimensions that organisations can actively influence and strengthen.
- It develops and grows only through collective effort.



Shaping the future of patient safety together!

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