Location, location, location—for teams

In most hospitals, nurses and doctors work in different workspaces. The nurses are at the “nurse’s station” and the physicians often do their work in other areas that are less accessible to the rest of the care team. Does this segregation affect the ability for the team to communicate? A hospital in Dallas, Texas decided to test this question. The Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety (TeamSTEPPS) Teamwork Perceptions Questionnaire (T-TPQ) was completed before and after moving into a newly redesigned Emergency Department (ED). Prior to the renovation, nurses were located in stations at either end of the ED; physicians were at a centrally located station. The new ED had 4 pods that combined nursing and physician workspace. The T-TPQ survey results significantly improved after the move.

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