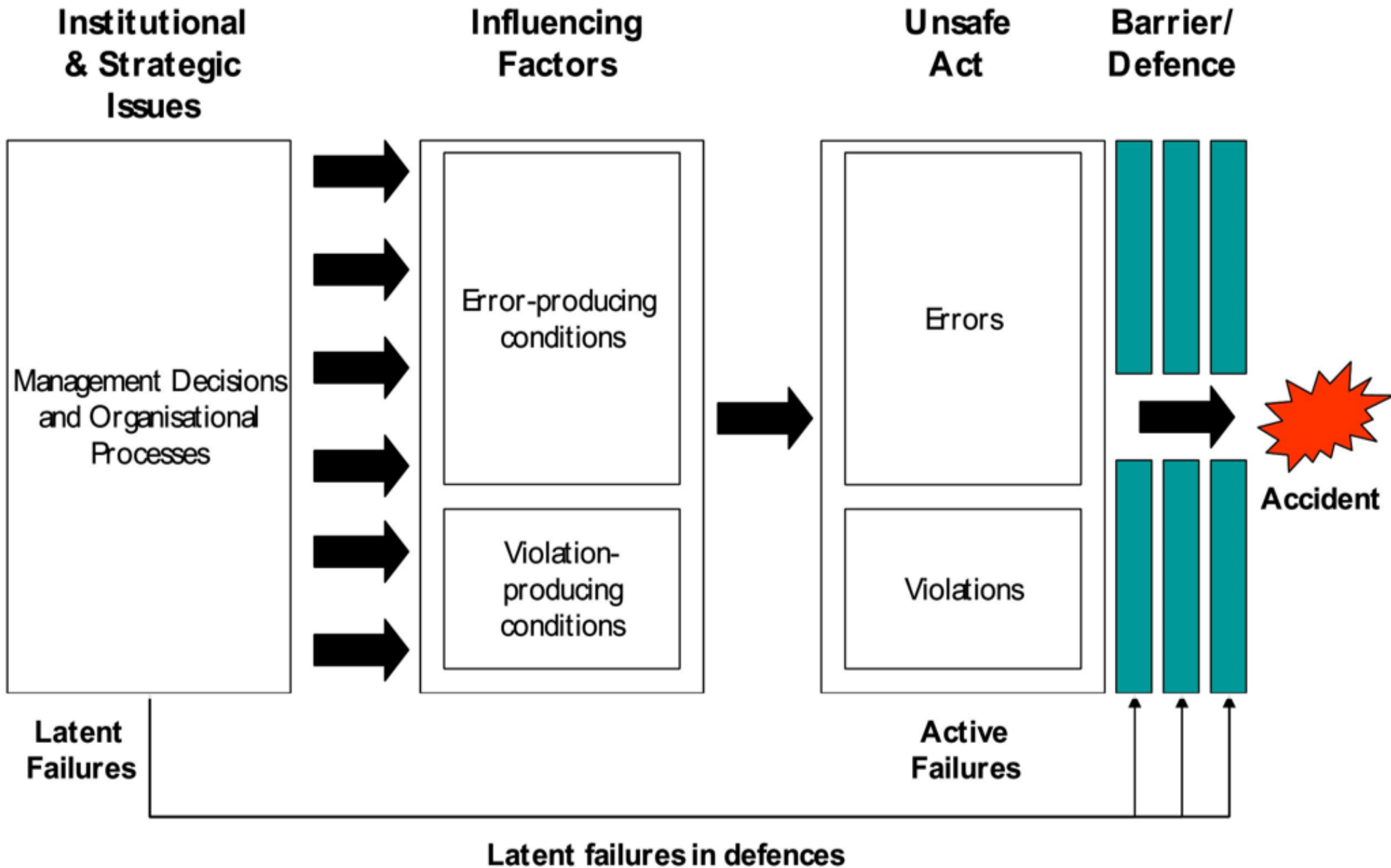




Keeping the Emergency Department Safe

DR KATHERINE HENDERSON – CONSULTANT IN EMERGENCY
MEDICINE, CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF URGENT AND EMERGENCY
CARE, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT RCEM

DR EMMA REDFERN, CONSULTANT IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE,
DEPUTY MEDICAL DIRECTOR NHSE SW, SAFER CARE COMMITTEE
RCEM





Error producing conditions – An Emergency Department in action

- high workload
- inadequate knowledge, ability or experience
- poor interface design
- inadequate supervision or instruction
- stressful environment
- mental state (fatigue)
- change



Chest
pain –
aortic
dissection



Chest
pain –
cardiac
disease



Back
pain –
cauda
equina

Other themes identified

- ▶ Failure to understand the importance of repeat attendance
- ▶ Missing signs deterioration
- ▶ Delay in accessing senior review and specialty review
- ▶ Communication, handover
- ▶ Poor documentation

What can be done to improve safety?

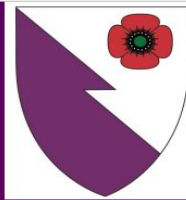


Diagnosis of Thoracic Aortic Dissection in the Emergency Department



Royal College of
Emergency Medicine

November 2021



The Royal College of Emergency Medicine

Safety Flash

Febru

Think Ectopic



- ECTOPIC PREGNANCY - **12,000 cases** a year in the UK
- Vaginal bleeding, shoulder tip pain, lateralising pain, syncopal attacks, **RED FLAGS** for imminent or actual rupture
- Do a pregnancy test in all women of reproductive age with suspected symptoms attributable to an ectopic – some women are **unaware** they are pregnant
- Women with suspected ectopic require **urgent** Gynaecological assessment
- In women with pain/bleeding in early pregnancy where the possibility of an ectopic is considered low, offer an early EPAU appointment and **written safety netting advice.**

HSIB investigation found communication and advice provided about Early Pregnancy Complications could be improved. Link to the report:

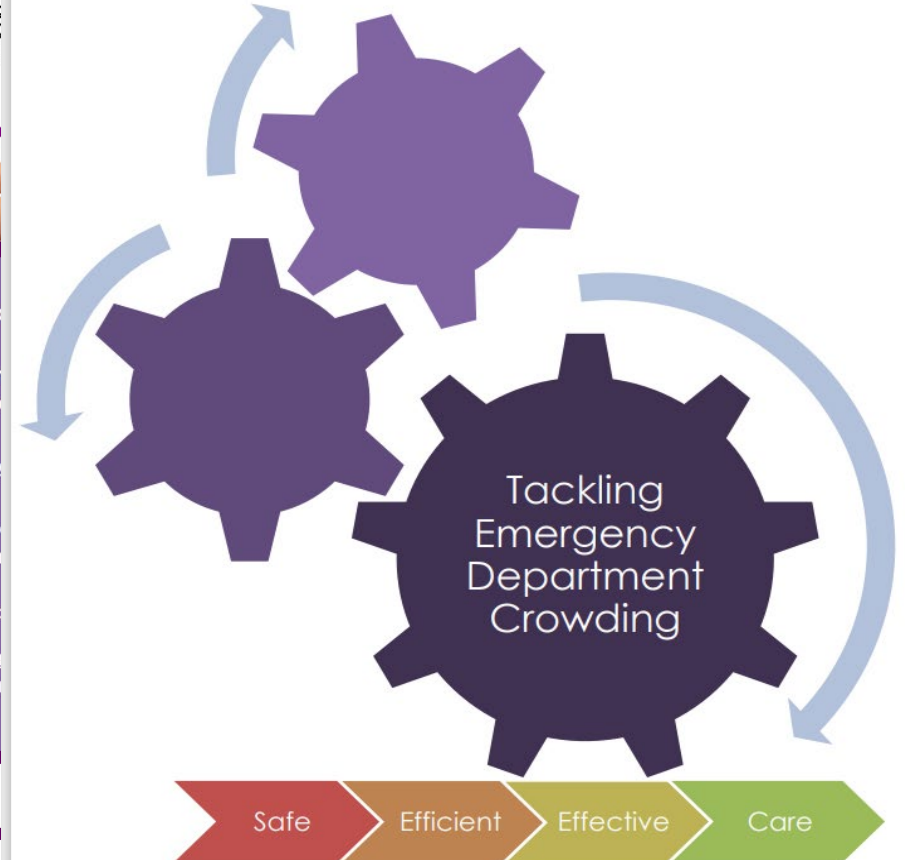
(<https://www.hsib.org.uk/documents/219/hsib-report-diagnosis-ectopic-pregnancy.pdf>)

The RCEM has a publicly available discharge advice leaflet template, with thanks to Dr [Name] via this link: (https://res.cloudinary.com/studio-republic/images/v1670604364/Patient_Discharge_Advice_Colour/Patient_Discharge_Advice_Colour.pdf?_i=AA)

For Safety Alerts and RCEM issued Safety Flashes see:
www.rcem.ac.uk/Safety



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Service Design and Delivery



A new way to
manage
recommendations
from reports

