

The Perils Of Transporting The Sick Patient.

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We are all comfortable whilst we provide care to our patients in our 'usual' environment, whether that be in the OT or the ICU. Ready access to equipment, trained and attentive staff and just the familiarity of the surrounds is all reassuring. When we move ourselves and our patient from this environment to the radiology suite or across town to a more suitable facility or indeed by air to another town we leave behind much that is familiar and indeed become quite distant from our usual support infrastructure. Some call this 'stress'.

The popular press, our journals and medico-legal publications are ever ready to publicise the woes that might have befallen us on such a sojourn. Indeed at departmental M&M meetings to this day the phrase 'how could I have been so stupid' is still commonplace.

For most of us, trips from OT to ICU, trips to radiology with sick patients, trips across town to deliver the sick caeser patient to an ICU post delivery are an uncommon undertaking and we wonder if we are doing right by the patient and our own equanimity in escorting them away from our 'safe' zone.

This presentation will explore some of the common pitfalls encountered on these travels and suggest some very simple checklists that can be played over in your mind that should reduce your prospects of appearing on Sixty minutes and, more importantly, allow you to feel less stressed when faced with moving a sick patient away from you traditional comfort zone.