

The Surgical Training & Education (STAGE) Planner

A Universal Checklist for Improving Training in Operative Surgery: Study Proposal

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On behalf of the Association of Surgeons in Training 'STAGE' Collaboration Group



Background

Surgical trainees face numerous challenges in maximising the educational value of every operative procedure. The benefits of checklists in healthcare delivery are well known. ASiT has developed the "STAGE" checklist for training as a systematic and universal approach to improve trainee's educational experiences of operative surgery. It encompasses evidence-based educational strategies for the pre-, intra- and post-operative periods.

Methods

Principles from Stufflebeam's context, input, process, product (CIPP) evaluation model were used in designing the checklist, ensuring that appropriate results and conclusions can be drawn from prospective evaluation. The evidence base for each item has been described. A pre- and post- implementation feedback questionnaire will be designed to investigate perceived changes in educational outcomes. The post-implementation survey will be aligned to the CIPP model, including assessment of validity and utility. Trainees will be recruited from all surgical specialties to pilot the STAGE checklist across the United Kingdom and North America, Australia and South Africa using a collaborative approach. A Specialty Registrar, Core Trainee, or local equivalent, will be identified in each centre as local investigator. This individual will coordinate participant recruitment, checklist roll-out and pre- and post- survey collection during a 2-week period in winter 2014.

Aims / Objective

The aim of this study is to describe the checklist development and design, together with a pilot collaborative study which will evaluate its perceived educational utility among surgical trainees internationally.

Fig 2: Design and trial of the STAGE training checklist

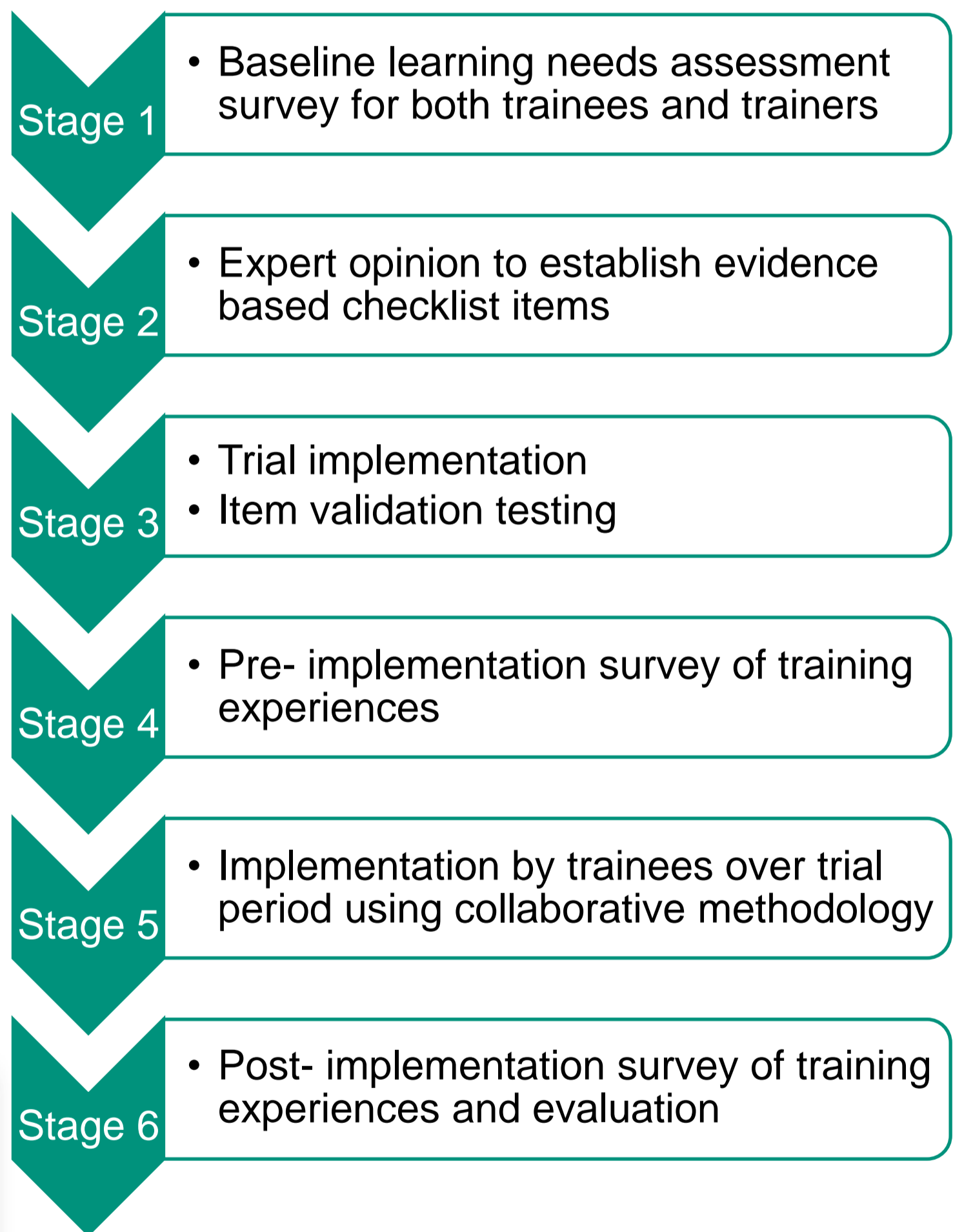
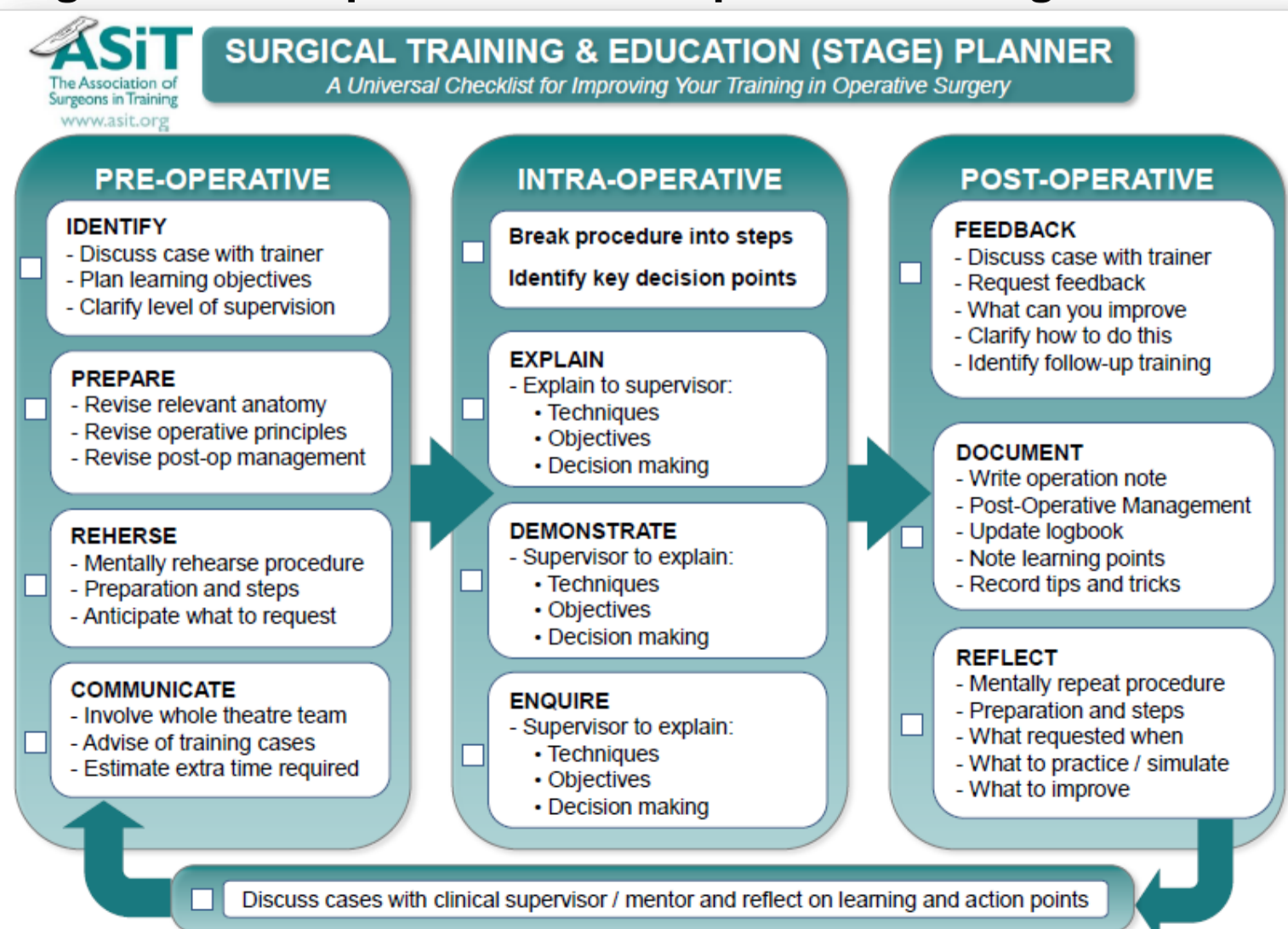


Fig 1: Model of potential STAGE planner training checklist



Discussion

The 'STAGE' checklist is the first time multiple evidence-based educational training elements specific to surgery have been brought together into one practical tool to help surgical trainees maximize their operative learning. This pilot study will assess item validity and overall perceived utility, allowing further refinement. It is hoped the STAGE checklist will form a universal educational tool to maximize operative training.