

# Non-Technical Skills in Human and Veterinary Surgery

## A Narrative Review of the Literature

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### **Abstract**

Non-technical skills (NTS) are key for patient safety and deficiencies in NTS contribute to significant errors in the operating room. Significant work has been done to identify ways in which NTS can be measured and taught to surgeons in human medicine. The purpose of this narrative review is to compare and contrast NTS research in human and veterinary medicine as well as to identify ways in which the fields could be complementary. PubMed and Web of Science were searched for articles related to NTS, surgery, and veterinary medicine. Relevant articles were identified and summarized. Significant research exists related to NTS in human surgery, like the development of metrics used for measurement of NTS like the Non-Technical Skills for Surgeons taxonomy. Simulation is the most studied method for teaching NTS, and can be done in many ways including low fidelity, and high fidelity which can also be used to teach technical skills. NTS in veterinary medicine has been sparsely researched but is well-recognized as an important skill. Much of the research performed in human surgery could be easily adapted to veterinary medicine, but more research is needed to identify if other veterinary-specific skills should be included.