Is there a safety checklist for radiology?
In March 2009, The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) published guidelines for radiologists in implementing the NPSA Safe Surgery requirement. Subsequently, checklist for radiological interventions was produced, based on the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist.

Internationally
Beyond the UK, other countries have also developed safety checklists for use in interventional radiology.
- Society of Interventional Radiology pre-procedure checklist
- Cardiovascular and Interventional Society of Europe (CIRSE)
- The RADiological Patient Safety System (RADPASS) checklist

Do they work?
In 2009, Haynes et al. published data in the New England Journal of Medicine to suggest that the implementation of a 19-item surgical safety checklist reduced the rate of death associated with surgery from 1.5% to 0.8% in a global population. Corso et al. showed that use of a 20-item time-out checklist derived from the Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe eliminated adverse events associated with interventional radiology procedures in the first year of use.

Challenges identified in implementing safety checklists include negative clinician attitudes and lack of clinician buy-in or engagement. Education, local champions, leadership, coaching and regular audit have been identified as being key to successful uptake.

Which NHS Trusts are using a checklist in radiology?
- Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust assessed uptake of a modified safety checklist and identified barriers to its uptake, increasing uptake from 79% to 100%
- University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay have a local safety standard for radiological procedures.

References
1. Royal College of Radiologists (2010). Standards for the NPSA and RCR safety checklist for radiological interventions

For more details or to request an electronic copy of the below, or if you’d like an Evidence Bite on another topic, please contact the Library & Knowledge Service at wuth.lks@nhs.net or ext. 8610.