

My name is Diana Avram and I am a Design Quality Engineer within Medtronic's Surgical Robotics Platform. I have been in my role full-time for about 10 months. In a nutshell, quality engineering is all about ensuring that we are developing and testing products to prevent severe failures and adverse events from occurring to the patients or users (surgeon). In my role I am currently supporting engineering teams when they are making hardware or electrical changes to any components of the Hugo Robotic Assisted Surgery (RAS) System. Part of what I do is perform risk assessments to ensure that proposed changes do not introduce new risks to the patient. If they do, then I document and assess the impacts of a new risk, update our quality documentation, and help to guide teams into how we can mitigate that new risk. Another part of what I do is a lot of problem-solving. If there are manufacturing delays or issues that arise I often work with engineering teams and with the supplier to assess risk and understand how things went wrong. I also perform risk assessments for manufacturing issues and update our quality and risk documentation accordingly to ensure that we have captured all new risk and failure modes. Another part of what I do as quality is to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Work Instructions (WIs). These are important documents that detail out the processes that we, as a Surgical Robotics Program, need to follow to ensure that we have a standard process for how work is done; This helps to ensure consistency in how we do things, ensures that everything we do is properly documented, and ensures compliance with regulatory bodies guidelines for med device development.

A little bit more about myself- I am originally from Washington State but moved to the east coast to study Biomedical Engineering (BME) at WPI. I have always been interested in the medical field and found BME to be the perfect mix of engineering and medical applications. When not working, I enjoy baking, reading, traveling, and enjoying the outdoors. I am also a big cat lover!