

An evaluation of patient safety culture in the paediatric service

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Aim

- To conduct a baseline assessment of patient safety culture in hospital based paediatric service, to identify strengths and weaknesses, and to use the information to plan for improvement.

Introduction

Safety culture greatly influence the quality and safety of patient care. Evaluation of patient safety culture is the first step to optimise behaviours and processes, improving healthcare quality, and reducing risks.

Methods

All professionals working in General Paediatrics at two Welsh hospitals were invited to participate in a web-based survey on patient safety culture (SOPS®) version 2.0. The survey period was from 24th May to 14th June 2024.

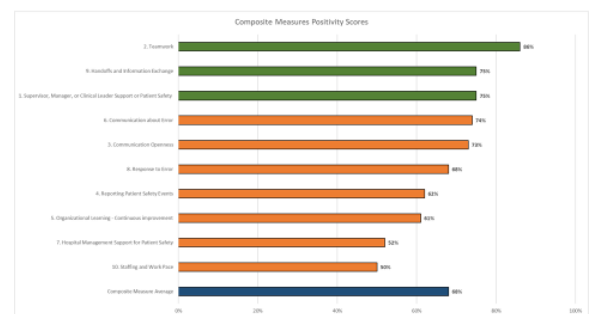
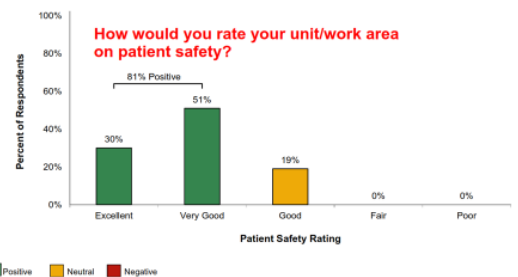
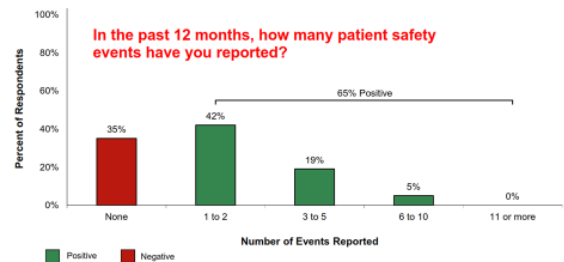
Positive response score to 10 patient safety culture composite measures and 2 outcomes (overall patient safety rating and the number of safety events reported in the past year) were analysed. Composite measures with positive score of 75% or more were reported as strengths, measures with 50-75% as potential for improvement, and those with less than 50% as weakness.

Results

43 responses were received. 40% medical and the rest from nursing staff. 35% of respondents reported no patient safety event in the past year, while 42% reported 1-2 events. Patient safety rating was 81% positive.

Conclusion

We have identified several areas of strengths in our patient safety culture and potential areas for improvement. The next step is to use this information to develop an action plan to improve safety culture in our paediatric practice.



Patient safety composite measures with the highest positive scores were "Teamwork" (86%), and "Supervisor, manager, or clinical leader support for patient safety" and "Handoffs and information exchange" (75%). The remaining 7 composite measures positivity scores ranged from 50-74%, identifying potential for improvement.