Reviewer’s report

Title: Measuring patient safety culture in Taiwan: an application of Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture (HSOPSC) in Chinese culture

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Reviewer: Johan Hellings

Reviewer’s report:

The paper certainly is certainly improved, but I still do not agree that the method used is the appropriate research approach to investigate the patient safety culture in hospitals. The numbers of respondents of each hospital are still too small and the proportion of the supervisors in the total sample size is too high.

Perhaps this is not a problem, but the data, dividing the scores of the supervisor group and the other respondents are not presented as suggested. Why were these data not presented? Because answering the questions of this questionnaire can be interpreted as critical for the work of supervisors, one can imagine that the supervisors will answer more positively.

The proportion supervisors versus other respondents is not normal and so the data remain unclear until the data can prove that there is no significant difference between the scores with the other respondents. And if there is a statistically difference it needs to be discussed.

The issue of the data is very important, because this study used a quantitative approach (questionnaire) to measure safety culture, but with very limited respondents, compared to other patient safety culture research. With such limited respondents and the proportion supervisors doubts can be formulated whether such a questionnaire is actually reliable and valid, since validating something as deep and complex as cultural assumptions is intrinsically very difficult. (Schein, 2004).

I can therefore not agree with the title of this paper. I can agree that it is a small pilot study and also the beginning for more research, but with these data one must be very caution in speaking about patient safety culture in Taiwan and the Chinese culture.

For me the research method chosen and the data presented are not acceptable for assessing the safety culture in Taiwan as suggested in the paper.

The other questions were sufficiently answered.

Johan Hellings

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests