Reviewer’s report

Title: Psychometric Properties of the AHRQ Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture

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Reviewer: Cordula Wagner

Reviewer's report:

In general, the article is easy to read and important in its field. The described survey has been used in various countries and it is important to have the validation of the initial survey.

Minor revisions:

The authors describe that the average response rate for the 331 hospitals was 55% (range: 6% to 100%), with an average of 289 respondents per hospital (range: 11 to 3,684). Is it valid to include a hospital with a response rate of 6% or only 11 respondents. This is a very small number.

There is some repetitive information, e.g. that the survey consists of 42 items and 12 dimensions.

Results

The authors describe that the chi-square tests in table 6 for six composites were significant, whereas a non-significant chi-square indicates good fit. So, the obvious conclusion is that there is no good fit. The authors explain that in large samples, as they have, the tests will frequently be significant. Why using this test in the first place and not the others more appropriate tests for the sample size.

For this study it is not important to know in detail non significant correlations between 'number of events reported' and the 12 composites.

Conclusions

The staffing composite fell below various cut-off points. I understand why the authors want to maintain that composite, but why not improving the questions based on the written comments. Maybe there are other issues of staffing that are more important or better in creating one construct.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests