Reviewer's report

Title: Hospital Safety Culture in Taiwan: A Nationwide Survey Using Chinese Version Safety Attitude Questionnaire

Version: 1 Date: 25 March 2010

Reviewer: Jane Sandall

Reviewer's report:

Hospital safety culture in Taiwan

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?

The validation of one of the commonest safety attitude questionnaires is an important activity. The authors should address the differences between safety culture and safety climate. The terms safety climate and safety culture are poorly established and are often used interchangeably and it is important to clarify what concept the tool is measuring. In addition, I would like to see some reflection on validity of the tool as well as reliability in terms of what is it measuring and how might culture be different in their setting as compared to the US where the tool was developed? I would also like to see a better argument made as to how the tool will be used and what current evidence exists regarding culture and specific aspects of safety.

Major

3. The seminal SAQ validation papers (ie previous paper in BMC), are not cited and the SAQ website should be referenced.

Major

4. Are the methods appropriate and well described?

Add how many questionnaires were sent and consider whether any bias was introduced by opt-in sample. Were any reminders sent?

Page 5 – add strengths and limitations of existing questionnaires, and how the SAQ is different.

Page 6 – add a reference for back-translation.

Page 8 – confirm that scoring methodology is same as that used by SAQ team.

5. Are the data sound?

Yes

6. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

Yes

7. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
There could be more discussion about the potential use for the tool.

8. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   Yes

9. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   A couple of suggestions are made.

10. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
    Yes

11. Is the writing acceptable?
    Attention needs to be paid to English grammar. Major

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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'