Reviewer's report

Title: Development and its applicability of Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture (HSOPS) in Japan: a cross-sectional survey

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Reviewer: christine goeschel

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written manuscript that provides information useful to health care practitioners not only in Japan, but internationally. The authors point out that understanding and working to improve patient safety culture is an area of nascent science but growing interest. Their study to evaluate the factor structure of the HSOPS among acute care hospital staff, and to evaluate internal consistency and construct validity in Japan revealed the potential for this to be a useful assessment tool. Although I believe the detailed statistical analyses deserve review by a PhD statistician, the authors did an outstanding job of describing their analyses, comparing their test statistics to more common multiple regression models, and comparing the relative strengths of the three step analyses they selected for the study.

Their discussion of study limitations was reasoned and clear. It is not surprising that not all safety culture subdimensions showed a relationship between number of events reported. Number of events reported, which was one of two single item measures of outcomes added to the Japanese version of HSOPS, is a complex process highly dependent upon contextual variables. I agree with the authors that more research is needed to explore this measure of patient safety.

The study conclusions are valid and the recommendations for further study are justified.

The only suggestions I would make would be to perhaps update the references for definition of safety culture (the authors use a definition from the 1993 ACSNI Study Group on human factors) and to clarify (pg 5) that U.S. use of the HSOPS does occur across the country, but by AHRQ and the authors own account, in 2009 the HSOPS US database included 622 US hospitals, which is approximately 10% of all U.S. acute care facilities.

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'