Reviewer’s report

Title: Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture in China

Version: 2 Date: 29 January 2013

Reviewer: Holly Seale

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Minor Essential Revisions

Introduction

1. The information presented in the background section is interesting but it is not providing anything new to the reader. I would encourage the authors to consider removing some of the general information on the importance of patient safety (which has been well documented) and instead provide some information on studies that have already been conducted and what they showed i.e. expanding on references 1 and 15.

Methods

2. Could you please provide further information on how the cities/hospitals were selected for inclusion? Did any hospitals refuse to participate? How was the healthcare workers selected within each hospital?

3. Did you have any inclusion/exclusion criteria’s for the hospitals/hospital staff (i.e no medical/nursing students, must be aged 18 years older? Did you include any specialist or traditional medicine hospitals?

4. Did participants provide written consent to undertake the survey?

5. The two sub-headings under descriptive statistics are not really necessary or should be in a different subheading level

Results

6. Did you explore whether there was any differences in responses by any of the other demographic variables i.e. years working in department, hours working per week.

Discussion

7. It would be good if you provided further discussion in regards to the differences between the three Chinese studies (i.e. your paper vs. ref 15 and 17). How do the studies differ i.e. populations surveyed, time periods of studies?

8. In regards to your summary statement about your results- I don’t think it is appropriate to state that: ‘The results demonstrated that health care workers in China feel positively toward patient safety culture in their organizations’. I would revise and say that ‘amongst the healthcare workers surveyed there was a positive attitude towards the safety culture in their organisations’.
9. It is really not appropriate to generalise about different cultures—based on findings from a select few studies from the USA. The following sentence needs to be reviewed: 'The Chinese people are warm and willing to help others and place relatively more emphasis on cooperation and learning [24-26], and they are more collective than people in western societies especially when getting along with members at the same level [26], whereas they are more cautious when they work with supervisors'. The findings from the US hospital survey need to also be referenced.

10. In regards to your assumptions at the bottom of page 11, it would be better if you considered them more as theories. Are you really able to extrapolate those assumptions from your results? Generally, ideas such as those would be explored in a qualitative study.

There are a number of grammatical errors in the paper. I would encourage the authors to have it reviewed.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'