Reviewer's report

Title: Determinants of Patient Safety at the County Council Level in Sweden: A Survey of Patient Safety Practitioners

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Reviewer: Sander Gaal

Reviewer's report:

This questionnaire study among 218 health care practitioners searches for potential factors that are important to improve patient safety in Sweden. The response rate is good. The most salient outcomes are that the health care practitioners (or managers; those in charge of the 21 country councils) find the conditions somewhat constrained and the most important items regarding patient safety improvement were a broad range of factors, of which the authors suggest that improving patient safety should be multifactorial, and include more patient side views.

It is interesting to see how a different country is trying to improve patient safety, and how the status of that improvement is at this moment. The study is straightforward, has clear methods and outcomes, the discussion is straightforward, supported by the data and the writing is acceptable. This study does not provide any new insights, but does add to the knowledge known from earlier studies that show that improving patient safety is difficult due to the broad range of items regarding patient safety.

Please number your comments and divide them into

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. With the term 'health care practitioners', I would imagine actual people working with patients, however in your study almost half of the respondents are administrative personal. You describe this in your method section, however I still think it is somewhat misleading, and could benefit of some more explanation (or a different term).

2. Did the authors try to find any significant outcomes within (sub)groups of respondents? For example: do people with more experience have significant other outcomes in what they find important? I can imagine that the authors made the choice not to perform this analysis, but potentially it could find interesting items?

- Minor Essential Revisions

3. Maybe some more information on the setting of these councils is useful. Do
these counties have influence on hospitals and also other health care settings? This knowledge is important because patient safety is different in a hospital setting than for example a primary care setting or psychiatry setting.

- Discretionary Revisions
4. Small typo with the bracket on reference 26 (page 10, discussion)

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.