Reviewer’s report

Title: The psychometric properties of the Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture in Dutch hospitals

Version: 1 Date: 17 June 2008

Reviewer: Mary Westbrook

Reviewer’s report:

The article makes a useful contribution to the literature on the assessment of patient safety cultures in health care settings. This through evaluation of the psychometric properties of the questionnaire will allow useful international comparisons to be made of the safety cultures in different health care systems. This is essentially a ‘nuts and bolts’ paper providing sound foundations and mechanisms for such research. It will be of interest to read of the outcomes of such studies.

Minor essential revisions

Methods: Respondents: line 7, remove double full stop
Line 10. The statement ‘A random sample of about 30 health care providers was drawn depending on unit size’ needs clarification

Questionnaire: Two of the number of events items are missing a set of inverted commas. The values assigned to the various responses need to have their numerical value included eg was ‘strongly disagree’ 1 or 5? You use single inverted commas elsewhere in the paper and suggest you use them here too.

Data screening: line 4. Should be ‘respondent’s mean score’ or ‘respondents’ mean scores’
Line 5, clarify what the 3.8% to 4.5%’ refers to.

Results: Exploratory factor analysis, line 3 ‘instead’ is one word not two.

Table 1. Second row, column 3, hyphen needed in Cronbach. The more usual abbreviations of number are ‘N’or ‘n’ or ‘no.’

Discretionary revisions.

Title: The title would give a clearer indication of what the paper is about if the name of the questionnaire (‘Hospital survey on patient safety culture’) was in italics or inverted commas.

Abstract: Background: line 1, add reference [11or 15] after HSPSC for readers’ convenience in identifying the source of the questionnaire.
Line 2, suggest removing ‘their’ or remove the ‘In’ at the beginning of the sentence.
Line 5, suggest insert ‘used’ or ‘applied’ before ‘in USA.’

Background:
Paragraph 1, Line 5, suggest insert ‘making’ before ‘structural interventions’
Para 1, line8. The term ‘healthcare’ is used while earlier in the paragraph and elsewhere in the paper you use ‘health care’
Line 11, suggest insert ‘people’ before ‘being blamed’ and change ‘people’ (after blamed) to ‘they’
Para.2: Sentence 1, suggest change end of sentence to ‘know more about their patient safety cultures’
Para. 3, Suggest end first sentence after ‘[18]’and begin second sentence ‘At the international..’
Last sentence. Suggest end sentence as ‘…get more insight into the elements of patient safety culture in specific countries’

Methods: Respondents, 2nd last line Suggest ‘or in management’
Data screening. Para 2, suggest start first sentence ‘We checked’ rather than ‘It was checked’. Similarly the first sentence in para. 3

Statistical analysis: Para 1, line 10. Suggest say ‘…possibility of interpreting the factors’.
Para. 2. 2nd line. ‘If different items are supposed to measure the same ?’ Include a word here to clarify.

Results: Para after table 1, line 4. Suggest ‘This gave occasion…’
Discussion:
Para 3, line 7, suggest ‘obvious’ rather than ‘plain
Para 4, line 6. ‘…but it the item..’ I think the ‘it’ is superfluous

Conclusions
Line 1. Suggest ‘The facture structures of the Hospital Survey on Patient Safety questionnaire are almost identical when applied in the USA and the Netherlands’ ‘almost similar’ implies they are not very alike. You could refer to the Dutch and American versions of the questionnaire
Line5, suggest insert ‘more’ before ‘acceptable’

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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