Reviewer's report

Title: Factors Affecting Nurses' and Physicians' Fear of Repercussions for Reporting Errors

Version: 3 Date: 5 January 2015

Reviewer: Bruce J Barron

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The article was well written and brought up important considerations. Several things may make the article a little better.

1. I suggest listing a scenario and the questions asked. That way readers could challenge themselves as to their decision.

2. Additionally, it may be worth talking about the normalization of deviance - if reporting of errors is not done by attendings, how you expect others to do it?

3. A final point concerns the ethics of reporting errors. There is an ethical duty to report an error. One should get into a practice of documenting even small errors. With the open patient portals coming online, we must be transparent about discussing errors. I have written on the subject and just as an aside, I asked my residents if they would report an error made by them if they thought no one would find out. None of them said they would. They are worried about a blemish on their job application. It would be interesting to look at errors reported per 1000 population at various institutions. Some are very open about encourages disclosure of errors while some still try to hide them.