Reviewer’s report

Title: Relationships between Dental Hygienists’ Work Environment and Patient Safety Culture

Version: 0 Date: 21 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Alastair Ross

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for the paper.

page 3
Please clarify what the percentages mean in this section: 'work experience was divided into 1-2 years (50% or less), 3-8 years (50-60%), and more than 9 years (60% or more)'

page 5
re: Frequency of events reported was higher in clinic-level institutions compared to hospital-level institutions. "This suggests that clinic-level institutions report patient safety problems and related hazardous incidents relatively more frequently."

Can you say something more about this? What do the actual data on frequencies of reports look like? I suspect this perception/rating of reporting likelihood does not hold true? It is generally accepted in some health care settings/countries that dental clinics e.g. general service actually underreport events, for example needle stick injuries? Also would dentists agree on reporting? (e.g. in the UK we know nurses report far higher rates than doctors)?

Did you consider multivariate analysis rather than just a series of ANOVAs/ t tests? It looks like it would be interested to model safety culture scores according to the various other variables collected on environment to see what the independent predictors are.

re:
page 5
"Workers at clinic-level institutions showed higher scores on five sub-areas, except for patient safety policy across hospital units": Were clinic workers asked the questions about hospital policy? how would they know? or were the questions amended? how would they answer e.g. questions about transfer between units?

The text on page 4 before the discussion should stand alone from the tables in that you should say in which direction the results were in- there are lots of 'significant differences' reported but no directions.

Typos:
page 5
The results also show that dental hygienists' work environment is closely relates to patient safety.

The lack of tools to examine dental medical professionals' patient safety culture. led us to use an assessment survey. Moreover, not all areas of patient safety culture items were excluded.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I am able to assess the statistics.

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
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