

Improving Patient Safety: Literature Review

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One central part of nursing is reading research. Research is important in healthcare to keep up with the new evidence on providing better patient care by following different studies. A literature review is important to help nurses and fellow healthcare professionals. A literature review evaluates existing research on a particular topic or question. It helps provide a foundation for evidence-based practice by identifying areas for further study (Houser & Oja, 2026). As mentioned above, literature reviews are important in healthcare to help healthcare professionals stay on top of policies and procedures and can contribute to quality improvement (Houser & Oja, 2026).

One primary concern in nursing is patient safety, which prevents errors and patient harm. Nurses are often the personnel who can identify patient safety risks and how to decrease them. This literature review explores the research on improving patient safety through measurable outcomes. The first article was reviewed in Oman and examined how patients and healthcare professionals perceive the quality of care and safety in two major hospitals.

“Quality of care and patient safety at healthcare institutions in Oman: quantitative study of the perspectives of patients and healthcare professionals”

This quantitative study was targeted to assess the quality of care and patient safety of patients and healthcare professionals in two different hospitals in Oman. Two objectives were sought in the study. The first one was to combine the views of patients, nurses, and physicians on the quality of care and safety of patients. The second was identifying the different demographic factors mainly associated with the perspectives. This research is important for developing a good, balanced understanding of how the delivery of care is experienced, along with being perceived from both patients and healthcare staff.

Key Points

This quantitative study was conducted in two main hospitals in Oman. The study included 367 patients and 140 healthcare professionals (Al-Jabri et al., 2021). The healthcare staff were from three different departments. The data was collected between 2018 and 2019 (Al-Jabri et al., 2021). This data was collected by convenience sampling. Two different study instruments were used: the Revised Human Caring Scale (RHCS) for patients and the Healthcare Professional Core Competency Instrument (HPCCI) for the healthcare professionals (Al-Jabri et al., 2021). Both study instruments used a 5-point Likert scale to measure the safety of patients and the quality of care (Al-Jabri et al., 2021).

The research assistants were handed the questionnaires along with fact sheets that followed through with the questions. After the participants answered the questionnaire, a locked box was placed in each unit after it was completed (Al-Jabri et al., 2021). The study got ethical approval from the University Committee on Research Ethics, which gave permission for this study (Al-Jabri et al., 2021).

The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics (Al-Jabri et al., 2021). The study's mean was the variable to measure the overall quality of care. A score of 1 indicated a low score, while a score of 5 indicated a high score. They determined an excellent score of 4 (Al-Jabri et al., 2021).

Assumptions

Based on the article, the authors assumed self-reported survey data from patients and healthcare professionals would reflect their actual experiences and perceptions. It was assumed that the tools that were used for the study were valid and appropriate culturally (Al-Jabri et al., 2021). While different healthcare professionals were involved in the study, it may have been interfered with by having different experiences and interactions. There was a difference in the ratings of the two hospitals that were involved (Al-Jabri et al., 2021). This resulted in having

more healthcare staff involved rather than having an equal number of healthcare staff and patients. With more healthcare staff, the p-value was higher, and the patients had a lower p-value (Al-Jabri et al., 2021). The conclusion of this study is that both viewpoints from patients and healthcare professionals will lead to a better system safety for patients and improvements in care.

Deficits/Conclusion

Large sample sizes, valid survey tools, and a detailed statistical analysis supported this study. However, relying on self-reporting may introduce potential bias. The study could have been better supported by performing interviews with the patients and healthcare professionals who participated in the study (Al-Jabri et al., 2021). One issue was that only two hospitals were involved in the study, which may not support other regions.

Although there are limitations in this study, it provides strong evidence that both providers' and patients' perspectives are essential in improving the safety of clients. Both perspectives are important in developing better safety planning and solutions. This study supports the continued development of safety strategies that balance effectiveness with patient-centered care.

“Concern and credibility: a factorial survey experiment on nurse judgments and intent to report patient-expressed safety events”

Groves et al.'s article from 2025 analyzes how hospital nurses assess and resolve patient safety concerns. The study examines whether the nurses' perceptions of concern and credibility mediated the relationship between patient demographics and the nurses' intentions to report the concern through the hospital's incident policy. The authors desired to comprehend whether biases influence the nurses' reporting behaviors. This study aimed to determine whether the purpose of self-reporting was more influenced by nurses' worry or the patients' perceived legitimacy of the concern.

Key Points

This research was conducted using a quantitative, cross-sectional factorial survey methodology to investigate nurses' reactions to safety concerns that patients reported. Patient safety is a top concern when taking care of patients, and underreporting is an issue that can cause patient safety and future preventive actions (Groves et al., 2025). The research was done using a survey sent to patients with different backgrounds. The characteristics of the background were race, socioeconomic status, and communication (Groves et al., 2025). Event characteristics were also identified, which impacted the reporting. The sample size for this study consisted of 240 participants (Groves et al., 2025). The authors used an 11-point system, which assessed each scenario for concern, credibility, and the intent to report the issue.

The study discovered that nurses significantly influenced nurses' intention to report incidents. It also showed the difference between credibility and concern about the incident (Groves et al., 2025). The nurses were more likely to report a medication mistake due to having a higher concern, which resulted in doing a report. Nurses were more concerned about Black patients and those with a lower socioeconomic background (Groves et al., 2025). The reports from Hispanic White patients also showed a higher intent to report, although it was not due to concern for more credibility.

A statistical analysis was conducted using the Bayesian path model. This model confirmed that race and socioeconomic status affect nurses doing an incident report (Groves et al., 2025). Concern versus credibility did not show a high significance.

Assumptions

Based on the article, the authors assumed that patient demographics could influence nurses' judgment about reporting safety concerns. They hypothesized that factors like race and socioeconomic status would affect the reporting behavior by influencing how credible or

concerned the nurses found the safety concern (Groves et al., 2025). The results showed that nurses were more likely to report for Black patients and those with lower socioeconomic status. Credibility influenced by race did not predict whether nurses were likely to report (Groves et al., 2025).

The findings from the study led the authors to conclude that nurses are more influenced by what they believe the issue is, rather than how the patient believes (Groves et al., 2025). The authors suggest that intervention is needed to improve reporting, which should focus more on enhancing nurses' perception of importance than patient credibility (Groves et al., 2025). These interventions can be suggested to management to help educate nurses on the importance of reporting patient safety concerns.

Deficits/Conclusion

In conclusion, the authors presented a strong case on nurses' concern about the importance of a safety issue rather than the credibility of the patient's report. The findings suggest that even when a report is credible, it may not be acted upon unless it seems important (Groves et al., 2025). It showed clear implications about how important it is to address safety events. However, the study did show some limitations, which included a lack of pressure and the inability to assess background factors. The researchers recommended that training should be implemented for nurses to recognize the significance of all patient concerns and how concern and credibility interact under realistic concerns (Groves et al., 2025).

“Patient Safety Culture from a Nursing Perspective in a Chilean Hospital”

This article is about a study done in Valparaiso, Chile, that evaluates patient safety from the perspective of nurses and nursing assistants. The main goal of this study was to determine the strengths and weaknesses in the hospital's safety culture using the Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture (Hurtado-Arenas et al., 2024). The researchers wanted to identify organizational

areas that could support or hinder patient safety in the hospital. The study also highlights how systemic issues impact the delivery of safe patient care, such as staffing issues and management support.

Key Points

The quantitative, cross-sectional study used descriptive, bivariate, and inferential statistical analysis (Hurtado-Arenas et al., 2024). Over 200 nurses and nursing assistants participated in the survey. The staff members were from 13 different adult medical-surgical units at the Carlos Van Buren Hospital (Hurtado-Arenas et al., 2024). The tool used in the survey was the Chilean-adapted version of the Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture, which consisted of 23 items across 7 dimensions (Hurtado-Arenas et al., 2024).

Receptivity and communication were rated the highest dimensions in the survey. It was closely followed by reporting events, and the lowest area was administrative support (Hurtado-Arenas et al., 2024). The primary barrier that was shown was staffing shortage and resources. A linear regression model was used to help determine the results, which showed staffing and organizational learning and supervisor support as predictors of how respondents rated overall patient safety (Hurtado-Arenas et al., 2024).

Assumptions

One assumption that was made by the researchers was that organizational culture and structure would influence the nurse staff on how they perceive and engage with the safety of their patients (Hurtado-Arenas et al., 2024). Another assumption was that administrative leadership and availability of resources were the top components to promote a good safety environment.

Based on the findings, nurses value communication, along with being willing to report incidents (Hurtado-Arenas et al., 2024). These were affected or limited by not having the support

from management, along with insufficient staffing. A statistically significant p-value for staffing and learning reinforces the idea that improving these elements could lead to a better outcome for patients (Hurtado-Arenas et al., 2024). The study concluded that without the correct support from management and access to resources, the nurses and nursing assistants cannot perform well.

Deficits/Conclusion

In conclusion, the study provided insight into patient safety within a hospital in Chile. Both strengths and weaknesses were assessed to determine the areas for improvement. Communication and willingness were strong; however, access to resources and management were deficits. This study showed the necessity of having good leadership to ensure that staffing and staff training could improve overall patient safety. The researchers recommended continuing research on implementing assessments to support evidence-based improvements in patient safety overall.

Conclusion

A concern in the nursing practice is patient safety. This requires ongoing research to determine any evidence-based strategies that can be used to help improve patient safety in healthcare. The articles reviewed in this literature review demonstrate that patient safety can be enhanced through interventions, accurate reporting, effective communication, and strong support from management. The articles reviewed show the need for engagement from healthcare staff and management to improve the outcomes of patient safety. A common thread that was shown in each study was the importance of both the patients' and healthcare staff's perspectives. Along with addressing the barriers, such as a lack of staff and the limited support that comes from management. Recommendations are continuing research, enforcing education, and changing policies to ensure nurses have the tools they need to help improve and advance the safety of patients.

References

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