A Comparison of Patient Safety Culture Data in Magnet and non-Magnet Hospitals

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Abstract

Objective: Describing patient safety culture in hospitals is an important step in the development of safe work environments. Research studies show that Magnet hospitals provide a positive work environment for nurses, research related to patient safety culture of Magnet hospitals versus non-Magnet hospitals is scarce. This study, using secondary data analysis from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s (AHRQ) Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture (Hospital SOPS) data in Magnet and non-Magnet hospitals in United States.

Methods: The study was a correlational descriptive design and the data were underreported. The Hospital SOPS instrument measures hospital staff perceptions about patient safety issues, medical error, errors and events reporting. The only hospital characteristics were Magnet status (Magnet intended) and hospital bed size (categorical measure). The sample consisted of respondents in 125 hospitals, 149 Magnet hospitals in hospitals that voluntarily submitted information in the AHRQ Research Hospital SOPS data 2002 and 2013 databases.

Results: All results were reported in percentage scores. Regression analysis, descriptive statistics, t-tests, and hierarchical linear modeling described the comparisons of Hospital SOPS measures in Magnet and non-Magnet hospitals. Magnet hospitals showed small statistically significant positive differences in categories.

Conclusion: In large data bases, AHRQ recommends percentage differences of at least 5% to be considered meaningful; therefore, it was not determined that Magnet hospitals showed more positive safety culture than non-Magnet hospitals. For both hospital groups, teamwork within units rated as the major items of positive and punitive response to error and under-reporting of errors the greatest advantage.

Discussion: Magnet hospitals have recently focused attention on patient outcomes. Understanding how punitive safety culture than non-Magnet hospitals. For both hospital groups, teamwork within units rated as the major items of positive and punitive response to error and under-reporting of errors the greatest advantage.

Background & Purpose: Despite much effort in the past 10 years, patient injury rates due to medical error remain unchanged (Landrigan et al., 2010; Levinson, 2010). The study was a correlational descriptive design to determine if Magnet hospitals show more positive safety culture than non-Magnet hospitals. For both hospital groups, teamwork within units rated as the major items of positive and punitive response to error and under-reporting of errors the greatest advantage.

Conceptual Framework:

Research Questions:

1. Are there differences in the 12 Hospital SOPS patient safety composite categories between Magnet and non-Magnet hospitals?
2. Is there a difference in the overall Hospital SOPS composite average score between Magnet and non-Magnet hospitals?
3. Is there a difference in the number of reported adverse events between Magnet and non-Magnet hospitals?
4. Is there a difference in overall patient safety grade in Magnet and non-Magnet hospitals?

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