



PhD student:

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Research project:

The perception of the Culture of Safety in nurses: exploration of the phenomenon and description of the determining factors

Abstract:

Introduction

The culture of safety is taking on an increasingly important role in patient safety in the hospital context.

The report "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System" identified patient safety as a critical concern in healthcare organizations and an essential first step in improving the quality of care.

A significant advantage for the development of patient safety is given by the implementation of new strategies aimed at promoting effective interventions and eliminating barriers, as well as by the adoption of organizational policies that guide and support the safe behavior of health professionals. The systematic review "Safety culture in healthcare: a review of concepts, dimensions, measures and progress", identifies the culture of safety in healthcare as a fundamental concept for improving the safety of patients and operators and encompasses the set of values, attitudes and behaviors that influence an organization's ability to prevent and manage errors.

In reference to the need for organizational and worker stimulation to increase the culture of safety, the High Reliability Organization (HRO) theory divides organizational error into: individual, organizational and interorganizational.

The aim of the work is to evaluate the characteristics of the Safety Culture and identify the factors (individual, organizational and interorganizational) that can favor or hinder the safety culture.

Materials and Methods

The study adopts an explanatory sequential mixed method design, divided into two phases: a quantitative phase (analytical-observational study) and a qualitative phase (exploratory investigation).

Before proceeding to the experimental part of the project, a scoping review will be conducted to understand the general characteristics of the construct and identify the factors that can favor or hinder the safety culture and which interventions have proven to be most effective.

The sources will be subjected to analytical reading to detect investigation tools that are already validated, reliable and already used by previous studies.

Since the safety culture is a complex concept, the quantitative component will be investigated with two subscales already validated in Italian: the Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture (HSOPSC) which describes the level of awareness of the safety culture and the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (SAQ) tool used to measure the safety culture.

For the qualitative phase, semi-structured interviews with professionals will be carried out with the aim of deepening the experiences, perceived barriers and contextual dynamics related to the culture of safety.

The participants in the study will be health workers working in the major hospitals of the Sardinia Region.



The collection, analysis and interpretation of the results will see the comparison of the data obtained with the international reference literature.

A further step of the research could concern the identification of a training model or an operational tool capable of positively influencing the safety culture to be validated.

Expected results

The results of the study will make it possible to detect the main individual and organizational factors associated with the culture of safety and propose intervention strategies based on the real needs of the specific context.