

Correspondence

Patient safety culture: A missing puzzle piece in patient care in the nursing profession

Mahya Ebrahimi ^a  | Sajad Miri ^{b*} 

a. Student Research Committee, School of Health, Gonabad University of Medical Sciences, Gonabad, Iran

b. Student Research Committee, School of Health, Qom University of Medical Sciences, Qom, Iran

*Corresponding author(s): Sajad Miri (MSc), Student Research Committee, School of Health, Qom University of Medical Sciences, Qom, Iran.

Email: sajad79miri@yahoo.com

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To the Editor

In healthcare, patient safety is regarded as a paramount concern, with nurses playing a pivotal role in safeguarding the well-being of those under their care [1]. However, amidst the complex web of healthcare delivery, one crucial aspect often overlooked is the significance of patient safety culture within the nursing profession [2]. Patient safety culture encompasses the values, attitudes, beliefs, and norms shared by healthcare professionals regarding patient safety, and its absence can hinder the delivery of high-quality care [3, 4].

As the first and fostering aspect of a patient safety culture, it begins with instilling a sense of accountability and responsibility among nurses [5]. This involves encouraging open communication channels where nurses feel empowered to, near misses, and unsafe conditions without fear of retribution. By promoting transparency and honesty, healthcare institutions can create an environment conducive to learning from mistakes and implementing corrective actions to prevent future occurrences [6]. Furthermore, effective leadership is paramount in shaping and sustaining a patient safety culture within nursing teams [7]. Nurse leaders must lead by example, demonstrating a commitment to patient safety through their actions and decisions. By prioritizing safety initiatives, providing resources for staff education and training, and actively involving nurses in decision-making processes, leaders can cultivate a safety culture that permeates the organization [8]. Education also plays a crucial role in promoting patient safety in nursing. Nurses must receive comprehensive training on risk

identification, error prevention strategies, and adherence to evidence-based practices [9]. By equipping nurses with the knowledge and skills necessary to identify potential hazards and mitigate risks, healthcare institutions can enhance patient safety outcomes and minimize adverse events [9]. Moreover, cultivating a culture of collaboration and teamwork is essential in ensuring patient safety within nursing teams [10]. Nurses must work together cohesively, communicating effectively and supporting one another to deliver optimal patient care [11]. By fostering a sense of camaraderie and mutual respect among team members, healthcare organizations can harness the collective expertise of their nursing staff to identify systemic issues and implement solutions to enhance patient safety [12]. In addition to promoting internal collaboration, healthcare institutions must prioritize collaboration with patients and their families to pursue patient safety. Engaging patients as active participants in their care empowers them to voice concerns, ask questions, and actively participate in decision-making processes regarding their treatment. By fostering a collaborative partnership between healthcare providers and patients, nurses can gain valuable insights into patient preferences, values, and needs, ultimately improving the overall quality and safety of care delivery [13]. Furthermore, leveraging technology and innovation can significantly enhance patient safety in nursing. In this context, electronic health records, clinical decision support systems, and barcode medication administration systems are just a few technological advancements that can help nurses streamline workflow processes, reduce medication errors, and improve patient outcomes. By embracing technology and

leveraging data-driven insights, nurses can identify trends, monitor performance metrics, and implement targeted interventions to mitigate potential risks and enhance patient safety [14]. Finally, continuous quality improvement initiatives are essential for sustaining a patient safety culture within nursing practice. Healthcare organizations must routinely evaluate their processes, policies, and procedures to identify areas for improvement and implement evidence-based practices to enhance patient safety outcomes. By fostering a continuous learning and improvement culture, nurses can adapt to evolving healthcare challenges, implement best practices, and ultimately provide safer and more effective care to their patients [15].

In conclusion, patient safety culture is a critical component of patient care within the nursing profession. By fostering a culture of accountability, effective leadership, education, collaboration, technology integration, and continuous quality improvement, nurses can enhance patient safety outcomes and deliver high-quality care that prioritizes the well-being of those entrusted to their care. As advocates for patient safety, nurses must continue to champion efforts to cultivate a culture of safety within their organizations, ensuring that patient safety remains a top priority in every aspect of nursing practice.

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Using artificial intelligent chatbots

None.

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