



Patient Safety in Context

- PC-SafeQuest (1,2) is a validated questionnaire tool that aims to measure safety climate in primary care.
- Using the results from noted safety climate factors, healthcare teams can continuously improve patient care by focussing on identified safety related issues.

The Patient Safety Culture

- A strong safety culture is essential to ensuring patient safety, and teams functioning in this kind of environment are more likely to learn openly and adapt working practices accordingly to reduce any risks.
- Safety climate and safety culture are often used interchangeably, but they denote slightly different concepts.
- Safety climate is thought to consist of interlinked values, attitudes, perceptions and patterns of behaviours across identified domains (2).
- A common definition of culture is “the way we do things around here” (3).

A Safety Climate Questionnaire for Primary Care

- PC-SafeQuest is a 30-item validated questionnaire that aims to offer a snapshot overview of the patient safety culture within the primary care setting.
- It is designed for use by all GP team members, and measures workforce perceptions over the following five factors:
 1. Workload
 2. Communication
 3. Leadership
 4. Teamwork
 5. Safety Systems
- Through www.gpsafetyclimate.com, anonymised results can be aggregated and compared with other practices and staff groupings.



Summary

- A strong safety culture is important to improving patient safety, staff wellbeing and practice performance.
- Assessing safety climate amongst the GP team (including non-clinical and non-management staff groups) provides a 'snapshot' of the prevailing culture at any one moment of time.
- Results can then be used to improve patient care by focussing on identified safety related issues.

References

1. de Wet C, Spence W, Mash R, Johnson P, Bowie P. The development and psychometric evaluation of a safety climate measure for primary care. *BMJ Qual Saf.* 2010;19(6):578–84.
2. de Wet C, Johnson P, Mash R, McConnachie A, Bowie P. Measuring perceptions of safety climate in primary care: a cross-sectional study. *J Eval Clin Pract.* 2012 Feb 22;18(1):135–42.
3. Nieva VF, Sorra J. Safety culture assessment: a tool for improving patient safety in healthcare organizations. *Qual Saf Health Care.* 2003;12(Suppl II):ii17-ii23.



Use PC Safe Quest

- Driving Improvements in Healthcare: Implementation Evidence. Learning Briefing 5: A Safety Climate Questionnaire for Primary Care. NHS Education for Scotland, 2017.
- <http://www.gpsafetyclimate.com/>



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Dr Nancy El-Farargy: nancy.el-farargy@nes.scot.nhs.uk

www.nes.scot.nhs.uk