Abstract

Title: Patient and staff safety: integrating the silos


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Introduction
Traditionally patient safety has been overseen by clinical (usually medical) and quality, whereas worker safety has been managed through human resources. Issues such as infection control, error, falls, design of facilities and equipment and patient handling affect both patients and workers, so is it viable to continue to host patient and worker safety in separate silos with little or no integration. Recent studies (The Joint Commission, 2012; Taylor, J A et al., 2012; Rieble, A, Braun, B, & Hafiz, H, 2013) suggest we may be missing an opportunity for better outcomes in both patient and worker safety.

Method
This presentation will report on a study that is still in progress involving a survey of patient safety personnel from NSW public hospitals to provide a snapshot of whether patient and worker safety are integrated. The focus of patient safety will be on falls.

Results
While this study is not yet complete and responses are limited, preliminary indications are that there is little integration between patient and worker safety in NSW public hospitals.

Discussion
At present the study is not sufficiently progressed to provide reliable results or discussion.

Keywords
patient, worker, staff, safety climate

References