

Patient safety promotion in the operating room

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Over recent years, patient safety has gained more importance in the field of public health. Surgical safety is particularly relevant due to the great number of perioperative complications which could be avoided and can cause damage to the patient. This also implies major costs to the healthcare organization, causing a great impact on its budget. Through the analysis of a safety culture, measuring patient safety in a healthcare institution is possible since they are influenced by each other. Hence, the “Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture” (HSPSC) arises due to the need for evaluation of patient safety in healthcare. The aim of this work is to evaluate and promote patient safety in the Operating Rooms (OR) of the Centro Hospitalar do Porto (CHP).

This descriptive study was conducted in the OR of CHP, where the Portuguese version of the HSPSC was applied to the workers, namely doctors, nurses, technicians, health care assistants and secretaries.

The results obtained show that in CHP teamwork within units has great value, as this dimension has the highest percentage of positive answers (63.4 %). The lowest percentage of positive answers is the dimension of frequency of events reported (24.9 %). The workers’ perception of the degree of patient safety is divided between “very good” (47.5 %) and “acceptable” (39.7 %). The strengths in CHP are teamwork within units, efforts for the improvement of patient safety, manager expectations and actions promoting patient

safety. The areas requiring intervention in CHP are those related to the system of events reported, staffing and work between units.

Keywords Safety Culture, Healthcare Quality, Patient Safety