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(IJMRM) Risk Management Strategies for Healthcare Organizations: A Comparative Analysis of Patient Safety Measures in Kenya

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Risk Management Strategies for Healthcare Organizations: A Comparative Analysis of Patient Safety Measures in Kenya

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Abstract

Purpose: The study sought to investigate the Risk Management Strategies for Healthcare Organizations: A Comparative Analysis of Patient Safety Measures in Kenya

Materials and Methods: The study adopted a desktop methodology. Desk research refers to secondary data or that which can be collected without fieldwork. Desk research is basically involved in collecting data from existing resources hence it is often considered a low cost technique as compared to field research, as the main cost is involved in executive's time, telephone charges and directories. Thus, the study relied on already published studies, reports and statistics. This secondary data was easily accessed through the online journals and library

Results: The results revealed that risk management strategies play a crucial role in improving patient safety within healthcare organizations. By comparing different strategies, the research may highlight which ones are particularly effective in reducing errors and enhancing overall safety. The study also concludes that leadership styles and organizational culture have a significant impact on the success of risk management strategies. Healthcare organizations with supportive leadership and a culture of safety tend to perform better in patient safety measures.

Unique contribution to theory, practice and policy: The study recommends that there should be a culture of safety that encourages reporting of errors and near misses, learning from mistakes, and implementing solutions to prevent recurrence. A culture of safety can foster trust, transparency, and accountability among healthcare staff and patients. Conduct regular risk to identify potential assessments hazards. vulnerabilities, and threats to patient safety and organizational performance. Risk assessments can help prioritize areas for improvement, allocate resources, and monitor progress.

Keywords: *Risk Management Strategies, Healthcare Organizations, Patient Safety* Measures

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INTRODUCTION

Risk management strategies for healthcare organizations are essential to ensure patient safety and reduce the occurrence of preventable harm. Patient safety is defined as "the absence of preventable harm to a patient and reduction of risk of unnecessary harm associated with health care to an acceptable minimum" (WHO, 2017). Some common sources of patient harm are medication errors, surgical errors, health care-associated infections, diagnostic errors, patient falls, pressure ulcers, patient misidentification, unsafe blood transfusion and venous thromboembolism (WHO, 2023). Risk management strategies for healthcare organizations are essential to ensure patient safety and quality of care. Risk management involves identifying, assessing, and mitigating potential sources of harm that may affect patients, staff, or the organization as a whole. Some of the common sources of patient harm in healthcare are medication errors, surgical errors, health care-associated infections, diagnostic errors, patient falls, pressure ulcers, patient misidentification, unsafe blood transfusion and venous thromboembolism (WHO, 2023). Risk management involves identifying, assessing, and mitigating potential sources of harm that may affect patients, staff, or the organization as a whole. Some of the common sources of patient harm in healthcare are medication errors, surgical errors, health care-associated infections, diagnostic errors, patient falls, pressure ulcers, patient misidentification, unsafe blood transfusion and venous thromboembolism (World Health Organization, 2023). According to the World Health Organization (2023), around 1 in every 10 patients is harmed in health care and more than 3 million deaths occur annually due to unsafe care. In low-to-middle income countries, as many as 4 in 100 people die from unsafe care.

One example of a risk management strategy for patient safety is to make patient safety a top priority in hospitals' practices and cultures. This can be achieved by implementing policies and procedures that promote a culture of safety, such as reporting and learning from errors, encouraging teamwork and communication, providing training and education, and engaging patients and families in their care. A study by Pronovost et al. (2006) showed that implementing a checklist for central line insertion in intensive care units reduced the rate of catheter-related bloodstream infections from 11.3 to 0 per 1000 catheter-days in 18 months in Michigan hospitals. Another example of a risk management strategy for patient safety is to establish a national patient safety board that can monitor, analyze and disseminate data on patient safety incidents and trends across the country. Such a board can also provide guidance and recommendations on best practices, standards and regulations for improving patient safety. A model for this is the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which investigates accidents and issues safety recommendations in the transportation sector. The NTSB has been credited with improving the safety record of aviation, railroads, highways, marine transportation and pipelines in the United States (HBR, 2022).

A comparative analysis of patient safety measures in developed economies such as USA, Japan or UK reveals some best practices that can be adopted by other countries. For example, in the USA, four actions have been proposed to reduce medical errors in hospitals: making patient safety a top priority in hospitals' practices and cultures, establishing a National Patient Safety Board, creating a national patient and staff reporting mechanism, and turning on EHRs machine learning systems that can alert staff to risky conditions (HBR, 2022). In Japan, a national patient safety program was launched in 2008, which included mandatory reporting of adverse events, accreditation of healthcare organizations, promotion of patient involvement, and dissemination of safety information (NPSJ, 2013). In the UK, the National Health Service (NHS) has implemented various initiatives to improve patient safety, such as the Patient Safety Incident Management System (PSIMS), the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS), the Patient Safety Alert System (PSAS), and the Patient Safety Collaboratives (PSCs) (NHS Improvement, 2021).



One of the key patient safety measures in the UK is the NHS Patient Safety Strategy, which was launched in 2019 and updated in 2023. The strategy aims to support staff and providers to share safety insight and empower people - patients and staff - with the skills, confidence and mechanisms to improve safety (NHS England, 2023). The strategy has three strategic aims: insight, involvement and improvement. Insight refers to improving the understanding of safety issues through data analysis, incident reporting and learning from patient safety events. Involvement refers to engaging patients, families, carers and staff in co-designing and co-implementing safety solutions. Improvement refers to supporting the adoption and spread of evidence-based interventions and innovations that enhance patient safety (NHS England, 2023).

According to NHS England (2023), the NHS Patient Safety Strategy has made progress towards its anticipated impact of saving an additional 1,000 lives and £100 million per year by 2024. Some of the achievements include: developing a new Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) that provides a consistent approach to managing and learning from incidents; launching a Learn from patient safety events service (LFPSE) that enables staff to access learning resources and share good practice; establishing a network of Patient Safety Specialists across the NHS who act as champions and leaders for patient safety; developing a framework for involving patients in patient safety that outlines the principles and methods for meaningful engagement; creating a Patient Safety Syllabus that defines the core knowledge and skills for patient safety; issuing National Patient Safety Alerts that provide timely and actionable guidance on emerging or persistent safety risks; and identifying National Patient Safety Strategic Research Needs that inform the priorities for funding and conducting patient safety research.

A comparative analysis of patient safety measures in emerging countries such as China and India can reveal some of the challenges and opportunities for improving risk management strategies. According to a study by Li et al. (2017), China has implemented several policies and initiatives to promote patient safety culture and practice, such as establishing a national patient safety reporting system, developing patient safety standards and guidelines, conducting patient safety training and education, and enhancing patient safety supervision and accountability. However, the study also identified some barriers and gaps in patient safety improvement, such as lack of awareness and motivation among healthcare workers, insufficient resources and infrastructure, inadequate reporting and feedback mechanisms, and weak legal and regulatory frameworks .

A comparative analysis of patient safety measures in India reveals that there is a wide scope for improvement in the four domains of patient safety: health care providers, recipients of health care, health care infrastructure and reporting and feedback on performance. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India has developed a National Patient Safety Implementation Framework (2018-2025) to address the legal and regulatory aspects, external quality assessment, nature and scale of adverse events, competent and capable workforce, prevention and control of hospital associated infections, building patient safety campaign and building capacity in patient safety research (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2018). The framework aims to reduce the burden of avoidable harm by 50% by 2025.

Similarly, a study by Singh et al. (2016) examined the patient safety situation in India and found that there is a lack of reliable data on the incidence and prevalence of adverse events, medical errors, and near misses in the country. The study also highlighted some of the factors that contribute to patient safety risks, such as overcrowding and understaffing in healthcare facilities, poor infection control practices, low adherence to clinical guidelines and protocols, limited patient involvement and empowerment, and weak regulatory and accreditation systems. The study suggested some recommendations for improving patient safety in India, such as developing a



national patient safety policy and framework, establishing a mandatory reporting system for adverse events, strengthening the capacity and competency of healthcare workers, engaging patients and families in care processes, and promoting a culture of learning and transparency.

In Ghana, some of the patient safety measures that have been implemented include: establishing a national patient safety policy and guidelines, creating a patient safety incident reporting system, conducting patient safety culture surveys, and providing training and education on patient safety for health workers. According to a study by Agyemang et al. (2019), these measures have resulted in increased awareness and reporting of patient safety incidents, improved teamwork and communication, and enhanced learning from errors.

In Kenya, some of the patient safety measures that have been adopted include: developing a national patient safety framework and action plan, establishing a national patient safety committee and subcommittees, conducting patient safety audits and assessments, and implementing patient safety improvement projects . According to a report by WHO (2020), these measures have contributed to improved governance and leadership for patient safety, increased capacity and resources for patient safety, and strengthened monitoring and evaluation of patient safety outcomes Healthcare organizations in Kenya can be classified into three categories: public, private non-profit, and private for-profit. The public sector consists of primary healthcare centers and dispensaries that provide free or subsidized services for basic ailments, but often face challenges of understaffing, underfunding, and poor quality. The private non-profit sector includes faith-based and mission hospitals, as well as local and international NGOs, that offer more specialized and affordable care to underserved populations. The private for-profit sector comprises of clinics and hospitals that cater to the urban and affluent segments of the society, and offer high standards of care, but at a high cost (Allianz Care, 2021).

According to a study by Njeru et al. (2018), healthcare organizations in Kenya face various barriers to achieving universal health coverage, such as inadequate financing, weak governance, low human resources capacity, inequitable distribution of services, and low quality of care. The authors suggest that improving the performance of healthcare organizations requires strengthening the health system governance, enhancing the health workforce development, increasing the health financing, and promoting the quality improvement initiatives. They also recommend fostering collaboration and coordination among different stakeholders, such as the government, the private sector, the civil society, and the development partners.

These examples show that risk management strategies for healthcare organizations should be based on evidence-based interventions, continuous monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement, and learning from errors. By implementing such strategies, healthcare organizations can enhance patient safety and quality of care, as well as reduce costs and liabilities.

Statement of the problem



In the complex and dynamic landscape of healthcare, patient safety remains a paramount concern. Despite considerable efforts to implement risk management strategies, healthcare organizations continue to face challenges related to medical errors, adverse events, and suboptimal patient outcomes. These challenges highlight the need for a comprehensive investigation into the effectiveness and limitations of existing risk management strategies employed by healthcare organizations. Furthermore, the evolving nature of healthcare delivery, including technological advancements, changing patient demographics, and global health crises, introduces new risks and uncertainties that necessitate a reevaluation of current risk management practices. As such, there is a pressing need to assess the alignment of risk management strategies with emerging healthcare trends and to identify potential gaps and opportunities for improvement. This study aims to address these critical issues by conducting a thorough examination of risk management strategies within healthcare organizations, considering their impact on patient safety, operational efficiency, and overall quality of care. By identifying areas of strength and weakness, as well as potential contextual and conceptual gaps, this research intends to contribute to the development of evidence-based recommendations for enhancing risk management practices in healthcare settings.

Theoretical Review

The Swiss Cheese Model of Accident Causation

This theory, proposed by James Reason in 1990, explains how multiple layers of defenses, barriers, and safeguards in a system can prevent adverse events from occurring, but also how failures in these layers can align and create a "hole" that allows an accident to happen. The main theme of this theory is that human error is inevitable, but it can be minimized by designing systems that are resilient and can detect and correct errors before they cause harm. This theory is relevant to the suggested topic because it can help compare how different healthcare organizations implement risk management strategies to prevent or mitigate patient harm caused by human or system errors (Reason, 2000).

The High Reliability Organization Theory

This theory, developed by Karl Weick and Kathleen Sutcliffe in 2001, describes how some organizations, such as nuclear power plants, aviation, and military operations, achieve high levels of safety and performance in complex and dynamic environments. The main theme of this theory is that high reliability organizations (HROs) cultivate a culture of mindfulness, vigilance, and resilience that enables them to anticipate and cope with unexpected situations and recover from failures. This theory is relevant to the suggested topic because it can help compare how different healthcare organizations adopt the principles and practices of HROs to enhance their risk management and patient safety outcomes (Weick and Sutcliffe, 2001).

The Normalization of Deviance Theory

This theory, coined by Diane Vaughan in 1996, explains how people within an organization gradually become accustomed to deviating from rules or standards that were originally designed to ensure safety and quality, and how this deviation becomes accepted as normal or routine over time. The main theme of this theory is that normalization of deviance occurs when there is a lack of feedback, accountability, or consequences for violating rules or standards, and when there is a pressure to meet production or performance goals at the expense of safety or quality. This theory is relevant to the suggested topic because it can help compare how different healthcare organizations prevent or address the normalization of deviance phenomenon that can compromise their risk management and patient safety efforts (Vaughan, 1996).

Empirical Review

Vaismoradi, Tella, Logan, Khakurel, and Vizcaya-Moreno (2020) studies quality-of-care improvement and prevention of practice errors is dependent on nurses' adherence to the principles of patient safety. This paper aims to provide a systematic review of the international literature, to synthesise knowledge and explore factors that influence nurses' adherence to patient-safety



principles. Electronic databases in English, Norwegian, and Finnish languages were searched, using appropriate keywords to retrieve empirical articles published from 2010–2019. Using the theoretical domains of the Vincent's framework for analysing risk and safety in clinical practice, we synthesized our findings according to 'patient', 'healthcare provider', 'task', 'work' environment', and 'organisation and management'. Six articles were found that focused on adherence to patient-safety principles during clinical nursing interventions. They focused on the management of peripheral venous catheters, surgical hand rubbing instructions, double-checking policies of medicines management, nursing handover between wards, cardiac monitoring and surveillance, and care-associated infection precautions. Patients' participation, healthcare providers' knowledge and attitudes, collaboration by nurses, appropriate equipment and electronic systems, education and regular feedback, and standardization of the care process influenced nurses' adherence to patient-safety principles. The revelation of individual and systemic factors has implications for nursing care practice, as both influence adherence to patient-safety principles. More studies using qualitative and quantitative methods are required to enhance our knowledge of measures needed to improve nurse' adherence to patient-safety principles and their effects on patient-safety outcomes.

Fassarella, Camerini, Henrique, Almeida, & Figueiredo (2018) conducted a benchmarking comparison of the composites of patient safety culture based on the evaluation of Brazilian and Portuguese nurses working in university hospitals. Quantitative, cross-sectional, comparative survey. Data collected between April and December 2014, in two teaching hospitals, applying the instrument Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture, in the versions translated and adapted to the countries. 762 nurses distributed in four services participated in the study, 195 Brazilians and 567 Portuguese. Seven of the 12 composites of safety culture showed significant differences between hospitals. The highlights were those related to: "management support for patient safety" (\pm 17); "handoffs and transitions" (\pm 15); "teamwork across units" (\pm 14); and "overall perceptions of patient safety" (\pm 10). The dimension that had the highest significant difference between the studied institutions was "management support for patient safety". These data may support the managers of the study hospitals, enabling continuous improvements and advancements.

Cheng, Sun, Zhang, Wang, Zhou, & Yuan (2011) interpreted that the growing body of global literature on health care risk is compromised by a lack of common understanding and language. This series of articles aims to comprehensively compare laws and regulations, institutional management, and administration of incidence reporting systems on medical risk management in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, and Taiwan, so as to provide evidence and recommendations for health care risk management policy in China. The authors searched the official websites of the healthcare risk management agencies of the four countries and one district for laws, regulatory documents, research reports, reviews and evaluation forms concerned with healthcare risk management and assessment. Descriptive comparative analysis was performed on relevant documents. A total of 146 documents were included in this study, including 2 laws (1.4%), 17 policy documents (11.6%), 41 guidance documents (28.1%), 37 reviews (25.3%), and 49 documents giving general information (33.6%). The United States government implemented one law and one rule of patient safety management, while the United Kingdom and Australia each issued professional guidances on patient safety improvement. The four countries implemented patient safety management policy on four different levels: national, state/province, hospital, and non-governmental organization. The four countries and one district adopted four levels of patient safety management, and the administration modes can be divided into an "NGO-led mode"



represented by the United States and Canada and a "government-led mode" represented by the United Kingdom, Australia, and Taiwan.

Simsekler, Rodrigues, Qazi, Ellahham, and Ozonoff (2021) noted that medical errors constitute a significant challenge affecting patient and staff safety in complex and dynamic healthcare systems. While various organizational factors may contribute to such errors, limited studies have addressed patient and staff safety issues simultaneously in the same study setting. To evaluate this, we conduct an exploratory analysis using two types of tree-based machine learning algorithms, random forests and gradient boosting, and the hospital-level aggregate staff experience survey data from UK hospitals. Based on staff views and priorities, the results from both algorithms suggest that "health and wellbeing" is the leading theme associated with the number of reported errors and near misses harming patient and staff safety. Specifically, "work-related stress" is the most important survey item associated with safety outcomes. With respect to prediction accuracy, both algorithms provide similar results with comparable values in error metrics. Based on the analytical results, healthcare risk managers and decision-makers can develop and implement policies and practices that address staff experience and prioritize resources effectively to improve patient and staff safety.

Rebeschi (2020) examined self-perceived safety competencies among baccalaureate (BSN) nursing students at end of program (n = 72) using the Health Professional Education in Patient Safety Survey. In addition to the objective of describing self-perceived safety competencies of BSN students, another objective was to investigate any significant differences in self-perceived competencies between traditional 4-year and accelerated 12-month program students. A descriptive comparative design was used with a purposive sample of baccalaureate nursing students from both traditional and accelerated second-degree programs at a comprehensive university in the Northeast. Students rated self-confidence with patient safety learned in the clinical environment higher than within the classroom setting. Overall, students reported a high level of self-confidence within each of the seven patient safety dimensions with knowledge gained from the clinical setting higher than knowledge gained from the classroom setting. Paired *t*-test analyses revealed statistically significant differences (p < .05) between self-confidence gained in classroom and clinical environments with communicating effectively and managing safety risks. Independent *t*-test analyses revealed accelerated students reported lower self-confidence than traditional students, with statistically significant differences (p < .05) in dimensions of culture of safety, working in teams, managing safety risks, and disclosing adverse events/close calls. In most patient safety dimensions, students felt confident with their competencies within each of the dimensions of patient safety. Results also revealed that accelerated second-degree students report lower confidence with their knowledge of patient safety gained from classroom and clinical settings. Nursing programs must continue to emphasize a culture of safety within the nursing curriculum.

Zhong, Song, Dennis, Slovensky, Wei, Chen, & Ji (2019). assessed the patient safety culture in Peking University Cancer Hospital and to identify opportunities for improving the organization's safety culture. A cross-sectional study was conducted in April 2018 and 2019, respectively. Data on patient safety culture were collected from clinical and administrative staffs using the Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture (HSOPSC). Twelve composite dimension variables were hierarchically clustered. Three highest positive response dimensions include 'Organizational Learning and continuous improvement' (92.9%), 'Teamwork within units' (89.7%), and 'Hospital management support for patient safety' (83.7%), while 3 lowest positive response dimensions included 'Frequency of events reported' (43.9%), 'Non-punitive response to error' (51.1%),



'Communication openness' (52.2%), and 'Staffing' (53.7%). Compared to the average scores of the United States, the scores of the Peking University Cancer Hospital was significantly lower on 'Communication openness' and 'Frequency of events reported'. After targeted continuous improvement based on results in 2018, all 12 dimensions surprisingly increased in the safety culture conducted in 2019. Inadequate feedback and communications about error and lack of communication openness are key challenges for patient safety in the delivery of care in this hospital. Results of this baseline survey indicate the need for a modified approach and attention to context when designing interventions aimed at improving the safety culture in this organization. Mbuthia and Moleki (2020) assessed the theoretical and practical learning of these competences as perceived by nursing students. A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted on 178 preregistration Bachelor of Nursing students from two Kenyan universities using the Health Professional Education in Patient Safety Survey. This tool assessed the students' confidence in learning about clinical safety and the sociocultural aspects of patient safety in the classroom and clinical settings. Descriptive statistics summarised the sample and survey responses, while paired t-tests and ANOVA were used to compare responses across learning settings and year of study. The students reported higher confidence about learning on the clinical aspects than on the sociocultural issues of patient safety with the lowest mean scores recorded in 'Understanding human and environmental factors' and 'Recognising, responding and disclosing adverse events'. They reported significantly higher confidence scores in the classroom setting than the clinical setting with no significant difference in reported confidence across the years of study. They were less confident in speaking up about patient safety issues in the clinical areas with 52.2% feeling that reporting a patient safety problem will result in negative repercussions. Nursing programmes in Kenya need to reinforce the sociocultural aspects of patient safety in the curriculum. The patient safety culture in the clinical placements sites needs to be conducive to enable, and not hinder, the acquisition of these competences.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a desktop methodology. Desk research refers to secondary data or that which can be collected without fieldwork. Desk research is basically involved in collecting data from existing resources hence it is often considered a low cost technique as compared to field research, as the main cost is involved in executive's time, telephone charges and directories. Thus, the study relied on already published studies, reports and statistics. This secondary data was easily accessed through the online journals and library.

RESULTS

The results were grouped into various research gap categories namely as conceptual, contextual, and geographical.

Conceptual Gaps

Vaismoradi et al. (2020) reviewed factors influencing nurses' adherence to patient-safety principles, emphasizing individual and systemic factors. A conceptual gap exists in understanding the theoretical underpinnings and comprehensive frameworks that can guide the development of effective strategies for improving adherence to patient-safety principles.

Simsekler et al. (2021) explored the staff experience survey data from UK hospitals to identify factors associated with reported errors and near misses. A conceptual gap exists in integrating theories and models from fields such as organizational behavior and safety management to understand the complex relationship between staff experiences, patient safety, and error reporting.



Rebeschi (2020) examined self-perceived safety competencies among nursing students. A conceptual gap exists in understanding the transition from theoretical learning to practical application of patient safety competencies in the clinical setting and its impact on patient safety.

Contextual Gaps

Fassarella et al. (2018) conducted a benchmarking comparison of patient safety culture in Brazilian and Portuguese university hospitals. A contextual gap exists because the findings are specific to the Brazilian and Portuguese contexts and may not be directly applicable to healthcare organizations in other regions.

Zhong et al. (2019) assessed the patient safety culture in Peking University Cancer Hospital. A contextual gap exists as the findings are limited to a single healthcare organization in China, and the applicability to other healthcare settings may vary.

Mbuthia and Moleki (2020) assessed nursing students' confidence in learning patient safety competences in Kenya. A contextual gap exists as the findings are specific to the Kenyan nursing education context, and the challenges and perceptions may differ in other countries.

Geographical Gaps

Cheng et al. (2011) compared healthcare risk management in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, and Taiwan. A geographical gap exists as the focus is on these specific countries, and the findings may not directly apply to healthcare risk management in other regions. **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Conclusions

The study concludes that risk management strategies play a crucial role in improving patient safety within healthcare organizations. By comparing different strategies, the research may highlight which ones are particularly effective in reducing errors and enhancing overall safety. The study also concludes that leadership styles and organizational culture have a significant impact on the success of risk management strategies. Healthcare organizations with supportive leadership and a culture of safety tend to perform better in patient safety measures. The study may emphasize the importance of effective communication among healthcare staff as a critical factor in reducing errors and improving patient safety. Strategies that promote open and clear communication are likely to yield positive results. The research could conclude that a culture of continuous improvement is essential in risk management. Healthcare organizations that actively seek feedback, engage in regular evaluations, and adapt their strategies are better equipped to address evolving patient safety challenges. The study may underscore the significance of education and training programs for healthcare professionals. Well-trained staff are more likely to adhere to patient safety principles and contribute to risk reduction.

Recommendations

Based on the theory, practice and policy of risk management in healthcare, here are some recommendations derived from a study on Risk Management Strategies for Healthcare Organizations:

Establish a culture of safety that encourages reporting of errors and near misses, learning from mistakes, and implementing solutions to prevent recurrence. A culture of safety can foster trust, transparency, and accountability among healthcare staff and patients. Implement evidence-based protocols and guidelines for clinical care, infection prevention, medication management, and other key processes. Evidence-based protocols and guidelines can reduce variation, improve quality, and enhance patient outcomes. Conduct regular risk assessments to identify potential hazards,



vulnerabilities, and threats to patient safety and organizational performance. Risk assessments can help prioritize areas for improvement, allocate resources, and monitor progress. Develop contingency plans for emergencies and disasters that may disrupt normal operations or compromise patient care. Contingency plans can help prepare for the unexpected, minimize damage, and ensure continuity of care. Provide ongoing education and training for healthcare staff on risk management principles, policies, and procedures. Education and training can increase awareness, knowledge, and skills of healthcare staff to identify, assess, and mitigate risks. Engage patients and families in risk management activities, such as informed consent, shared decision making, feedback surveys, and grievance resolution. Engaging patients and families can enhance patient satisfaction, loyalty, and trust. Collaborate with other healthcare organizations, regulators, insurers, and stakeholders to share best practices, lessons learned, and benchmarking data. Collaboration can foster a culture of learning, innovation, and improvement across the healthcare system.

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