

1st Nordic Patient Safety Conference

PhD-project title:

“Exploring the knowledge and system that frames safe work practices – An ethnographic case study approach within multidisciplinary healthcare teams”

Research organization

The PhD-student is affiliated to the Patient Safety Research Group at the University of Stavanger.

Author

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Background

Health care safety literature often express need for further studies that explore and identifies the particular characteristics of team work in health care. This PhD-project is aimed at addressing this current lack in literature.

Goal of the project

The PhD-project explores the characteristics of knowledge (such as experience, intuition and improvisation) and system (equipment, technology, time pressure, conflicting priorities, etc) that enables multidisciplinary surgical teams to create and maintain safe work practices.

Research method

- The PhD-project consists of an ethnographic non-participant observational study of orthopedic surgical teams at a large regional hospital in Norway.
- By utilizing observations to determine emergent traits and themes and semi-structured interviews to provide richness to these themes, the researcher follows the process from the team is initiated until it is dissolved.
- The focus on themes and richness facilitates the later analysis and representation of data, focused on capturing both the structure and the richness of the particular phenomenon.
- Validity is ensured throughout the entire research process, by involving team members in approving or disapproving the emerging themes and understandings of the researcher.

Results

- The overall aim of the result presentation is to shed light on the characteristics of knowledge and system that enables multidisciplinary surgical teams to create and maintain safe work practices.
- Tentatively, knowledge characteristics are addressed through observations and respondent descriptions of non-technical aspects, such as planning, communication, decision-making, as well as tacit and experience-based aspects.

- Similarly, system characteristics are related to the local surroundings, such as equipment, tools, personnel, access to operating room, and the global context in terms of the role of time, resources, priorities, etc.

Conclusions

The emerging themes and insights of the PhD-project are compared to other similar health care safety studies, with the intention to provide fruitful suggestions on where future efforts are needed within this particular safety field.

Contact information

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