SYNOPSIS

Submitted by: Dr. Shalini Kotwal **Guided by: Dr. Susmit Jain**
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1. **TITLE:** Advancing Patient Safety: Strategies for comprehensive assessment and improvement.

2. **INTRODUCTION:** Patient safety is a critical concern in healthcare, driving the need for comprehensive assessment and improvement strategies. This study aims to explore these strategies, emphasizing their relevance and applicability in real-world healthcare settings. By identifying areas for intervention and providing evidence-based insights, this research seeks to enhance patient outcomes and contribute to a culture of continuous improvement within healthcare systems.

3. **RESEARCH QUESTION:**

- What are the current challenges and risks associated with patient safety in healthcare settings?
- What frameworks and approaches are available for the comprehensive assessment of patient safety?
- What role does interdisciplinary collaboration play in improving patient safety, and how can communication and coordination among healthcare teams be optimized?

4. **OBJECTIVES:**

- To analyze the current implementation status and adherence to International Patient Safety Goals (IPSG) 1, 2, 4 and 6 within the hospital.
- To assess the alignment of healthcare practices with National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) Standard 2, focusing on patient safety and quality improvement initiatives.
- To identify gaps and challenges in meeting IPSG 1 (Identify Patients Correctly), IPSG 2 (Improve Effective Communication), and IPSG 4 and IPSG 6.
- To explore strategies for enhancing compliance with IPSG and NABH standards, including the adoption of best practices, technology integration, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

5. **HYPOTHESIS:**

   - Healthcare organisations are likely to exhibit differing degrees of adherence to the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) Standard 2 and the International Patient Safety Goals (IPSG) 1, 2, 4and 6. There may be gaps in accurately identifying patients, ensuring effective communication, and managing high-alert medications. It is further hypothesised that the degree to which these requirements are achieved would be influenced by elements including staff training, resource allocation, and organisational culture. It is anticipated that healthcare organisations will be able to address these issues and improve patient safety outcomes through comprehensive evaluation and improvement initiatives, which will eventually end up in reduction of adverse occurrences and an increase in the quality of medical care.

   - It is hypothesized that organizational culture plays a significant role in the implementation and adherence to patient safety goals and standards. Hospitals with a strong culture of safety are expected to demonstrate higher compliance with IPSG and NABH standards compared to those with a weaker safety culture.

- The level of training and education provided to healthcare staff directly impacts their understanding of patient safety principles and their ability to implement best practices. Hospitals that invest in ongoing training and education programs are expected to demonstrate higher compliance with IPSG and NABH standards compared to those with limited training resources.

- Interdisciplinary collaboration among healthcare teams improves communication, enhances problem-solving abilities, and facilitates the implementation of patient safety initiatives. Hospitals that foster a culture of collaboration and teamwork are expected to have higher levels of compliance with IPSG and NABH standards.

STUDY DESIGN: A mixed-methods approach will be employed, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques to gather comprehensive insights into patient safety.

SETTING: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Specialty Hospital, Katra, Jammu.

STUDY POPULATION

Inclusion criteria:

- Patients from different departments like IPD, MICU, CCU and SICU.
- Healthcare professionals directly involved in patient care, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and allied health professionals.
- Administrative staff responsible for patient safety protocols, quality improvement initiatives, and accreditation compliance.
- Staff members with roles in communication, medication management, and patient identification processes.
- Individuals involved in training and education related to patient safety practices.

Exclusion criteria:

- Non-clinical staff members not directly involved in patient care or safety initiatives (e.g., administrative staff in non-healthcare departments).
- Visitors, patients, and volunteers who are not employed by the hospital.
- Temporary or agency staff with limited involvement in hospital operations and patient care.

Study tools: The tool used for this study was check list. Separate checklist for each IPSG was prepared. Checklist comprises of measuring element, compliance score, achieved score and expected score, compliance percentage. The checklist was carefully structured and simply designed to ensure easy answering. Checklist was made for conducting gap analysis against each standard.

DURATION OF STUDY: March 26, 2024 – June 25, 2024

SAMPLE SIZE: 150 Patients

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE: Convenience Sampling

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE: The Checklists will be used to examine the data. The procedure includes checklists for IPSG goal 1, 2 & 3 and correlating the values with the patient's files.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS:

Patient Safety: The prevention of errors and adverse effects to patients associated with healthcare delivery, encompassing a range of strategies aimed at reducing risks and improving the overall quality of care.

International Patient Safety Goals (IPSG): Specific objectives established by international healthcare organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), to address key areas of patient safety concern, including patient identification, communication, and medication safety.

NABH Standard 2: A set of criteria outlined by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH), focusing on patient safety and quality improvement within healthcare institutions, including requirements related to patient identification, effective communication, and medication management.

6. DATA ANALYSIS PLAN:

Proportion will be calculated to measure the compliances. Analysis will be based on availability of policy/procedures, documentation, implementation, and awareness of the staff. Non-availability of policy and procedures will be considered as a non-compliance. And if an existing SOPs are implemented with proper documentation and awareness of staff, it will be considered as full compliance.

7. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Informed Consent: Obtain voluntary and informed consent from all participants, ensuring they understand the purpose, procedures, risks, and benefits of the study before participation.
- Confidentiality: Protect the privacy and confidentiality of participant data, ensuring that sensitive information is securely stored and only accessible to authorized personnel.
- Respect for Autonomy: Respect the autonomy and decision-making capacity of participants, allowing them to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

8. IMPLICATIONS OF RESEARCH:

Clinical Practices: The findings of the research can inform clinical practitioners by highlighting areas for improvement in patient safety protocols and procedures. Healthcare professionals can incorporate evidence-based interventions to enhance patient identification, communication, and medication safety, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes.

Policy Development: Policymakers can use the research findings to develop and implement policies aimed at strengthening patient safety standards within healthcare systems. This may include advocating for the adoption of international patient safety goals (IPSG) and accreditation standards such as NABH across the hospital.

Quality Improvement Initiatives: Hospital can utilize the research findings to initiate quality improvement projects focused on addressing identified gaps in patient safety. This may involve implementing system-wide changes, developing training programs, and fostering a culture of safety within the organization.

Education and Training: The research findings can guide the development of educational

curricula and training programs for healthcare professionals, emphasizing the importance of patient safety practices and providing them with the necessary knowledge and skills to improve patient care delivery.

9. REFERENCES:

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