

AHRQ Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture

—Fact Sheet—

- Safety culture surveys are useful for measuring organizational conditions that can lead to adverse events and patient harm in health care organizations. Organizations that want to assess their existing culture of patient safety should consider conducting a safety culture survey.
- The AHRQ Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture has been tested and validated. Benchmarking and comparison data are available.
- The survey has been in use since 2006; nearly 400 hospitals participated in the survey in 2008.
- The survey measures staff perceptions of patient safety in their work area/unit, as well as perceptions about patient safety in the hospital as a whole.
- There are a total of 51 items in the survey and it takes approximately 10–15 minutes to complete. Most of the items use “Agree/Disagree” or “Never/Always” response categories, so the survey is easy to answer.
- Each organization has an opportunity to ask hospital-specific questions at the end of the survey. A sample question to consider: “What disruptive behavior have you observed in the last 6 months that has interfered with patient care?”
- Modifications are possible; however, to ensure accurate comparison and benchmarking between your hospital and other organizations, modifications should be limited. Modifications may affect the reliability and overall validity of the survey.
- There is NO CHARGE for the survey or for HSAG’s assistance in implementing the survey.
- Additional information about the survey, survey toolkit, forms, and templates are available at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/hospculture/>

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