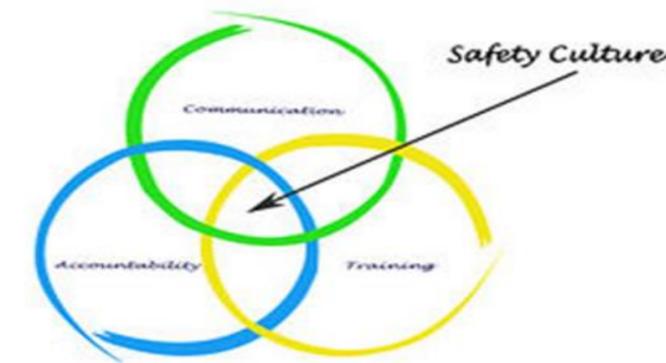




Patient Safety Culture in Bulgarian Private and Public Hospitals

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Introduction

Hospital patient safety culture presents a problem and challenge for health systems from all over the world, regardless of whether hospitals are private or public-owned.

Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture was developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to provide continuum improvement of quality medical care.

Objective

The aim of the study was to explore patient safety culture in private and public hospitals in Bulgaria through the web-based Bulgarian version of the Hospital Survey on Patients Safety Culture (B-HSOPSC).

Methods

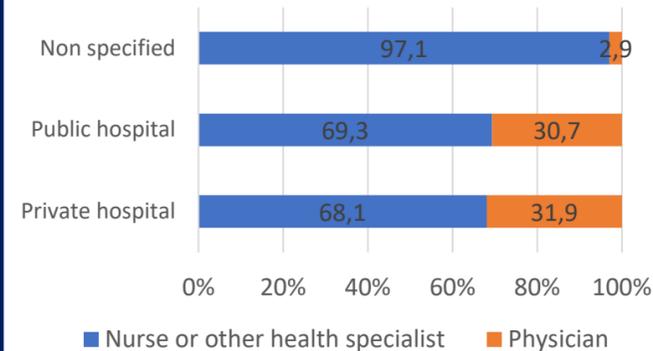
A national cross-sectional Web-based-survey was designed, using the B-HSOPSC - 42 questions, grouped in 12 different dimensions measuring patient safety culture. The questionnaire also includes two outcome variables - a patient safety grade and a number of adverse events reported.

The total of 546 medical specialists and other hospital staffs from Bulgarian hospitals took part in the survey in the period July 2018 and January 2019.

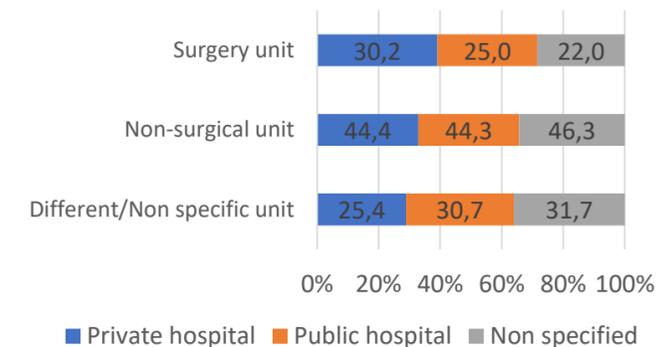
The data were exported directly to SPSS 17.0 statistical software and analyzed with descriptive statistics and non-parametric Mann-Whitney U test. The level of significance of 5% probability ($P < 0.05$) was adopted.

Figures

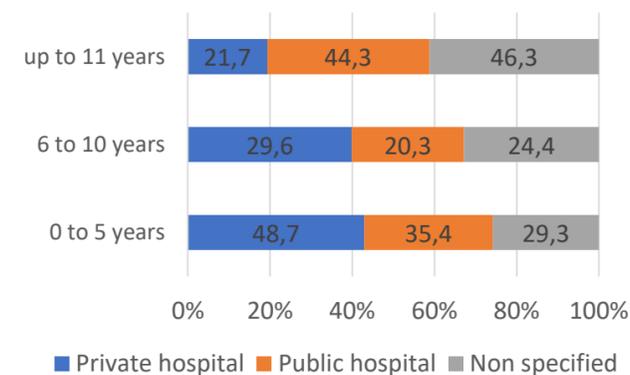
Current staff position



Current workplace

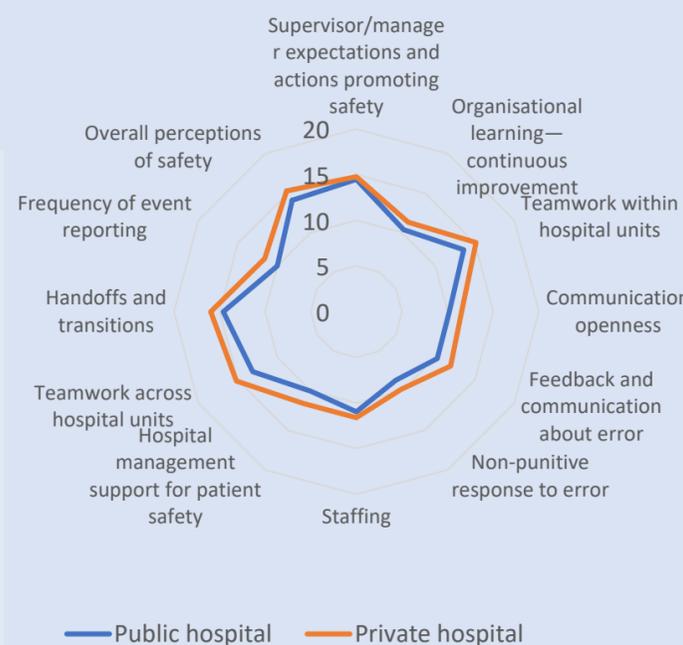
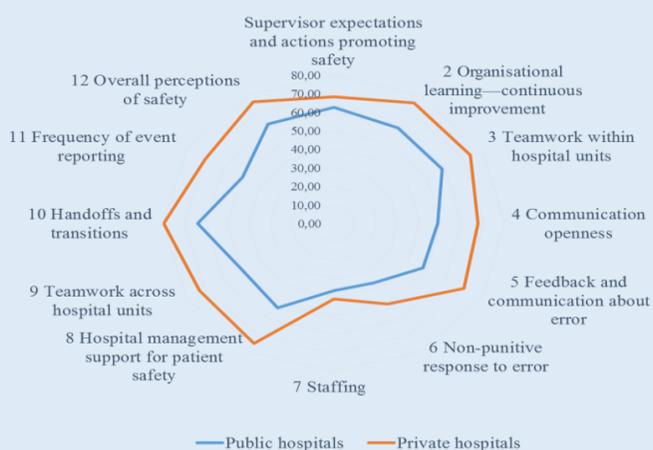


Duration of work experience



Differences in dimensions of patient safety cultures between public and private hospitals, using mean scores

Differences in dimensions of patient safety cultures between public and private hospitals, using percentages in positives answers



Results

The results showed that there are significant differences in patient safety culture between public and private hospitals ($P < 0.05$). Generally, private hospitals staff give higher mean scores to all items from the questionnaire, except to items: **A5 Staff** in this unit work longer hours than is best for patient care (2.01 ± 0.945 in private versus 2.32 ± 1.058 in public hospitals); **A7 We use** more agency/temporary staff than is best for patient care (3.71 ± 1.217 in private versus 3.95 ± 1.241 in public hospitals); **B3 Whenever** pressure builds up, my supervisor/manager wants us to work faster, even if it means taking shortcuts (2.90 ± 1.203 in private versus 3.41 ± 1.033 in public hospitals) and **E1, Please give** your work area/unit in this hospital an overall grade on patient safety (1.82 ± 0.818 in private versus 2.40 ± 0.973 in public hospitals).

Conclusion

Significant differences of positive scores distribution were found between patient safety culture in public and private hospital. This could be explained by the differences in the organizational culture and management style in the two different hospital types.