

Original Article

Factors Affecting the Attitudes of Health Care Professionals toward Medical Errors in a Public Hospital in Turkey

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Abstract

Background: Previous studies have shown that the incidence of patient impairment and preventable death due to medical errors is inadmissibly high.

Aim: This study primarily aims to determine the attitudes of health professionals in a public hospital towards medical errors and related factors.

Methodology: This study was designed as a descriptive and cross-sectional study and the sample included 652 healthcare employees in a public hospital in Turkey. The study data were collected with a Sociodemographic and Working Characteristics Questionnaire Form and Medical Errors Attitude Scale. The data were analyzed with descriptive statistics and multiple regression analysis.

Results: The participants' perception of medical error was found to be negative, and some variables were defined as effective (lack of knowledge, administrative approach that supports learning from mistakes, higher numbers of patients, longer working hours, age, medical error education, and educational status,), in the ratio of 25%, for explaining attitudes towards medical error.

Conclusion: That managers at all levels and health care professionals should be encouraged to participate in education programs , which should also be included in school curricula as well as in-service training programs to be conducted in health institutions. Research and development studies are recommended to be based on a scientific methodology in order to improve patient safety in health institutions.

Keywords: Nursing, medical error, attitudes towards medical errors