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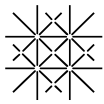
## **Safety culture in the home care**

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## Abstract

### Introduction

In the maintenance of safe healthcare systems, both for patients and staff, safety culture has gained increasing importance. A culture of safety is an essential component of a healthy work environment that enables staff to deliver high-quality and safe health care. Measuring safety culture/climate from staff's perspective can be used together with existing patient safety indicators, health outcomes indicators and patient reported experiences to provide a more accurate perspective of the state of safety in health care organizations. Although understanding safety culture/climate in the growing sector of home care is crucial, there is a lack of research in this setting. In the few existing studies, instruments developed for other sectors, which differ from the unique characteristics of the home care setting, have been used. The lack of contextual fit hinders the use of the generated data for learning and benchmarking purposes.

### Aims

To adapt a suitable safety climate instrument to the home care setting in the French-speaking region of Switzerland and to examine its psychometric properties, including content validity, internal consistency, construct validity and criterion validity.

### Methods

This psychometric study takes a stepwise approach to select and adapt an existing safety culture/climate instrument to the home care setting and test it in a multi-center, cross-sectional study. We will conduct a scoping review to identify existing instruments to measure safety culture/climate and consult experts in the field to assess which existing instrument is best suited to be adapted to the home care setting, resp. which specific aspects of the home care setting in view of safety climate need to be considered in such instruments. The selected instrument will be translated to French and adapted to the setting and context of Swiss home care. Experts and home care workers will assess the content validity of the adapted instrument which will be used to re-adapt the instrument. To assess the degree of agreement we will calculate Cohen's coefficient kappa. For a pre-test of the questionnaire with cognitive interviewing, a heterogeneous convenience sample of at least 10 home care workers from two home care agencies in the French-speaking region of Switzerland will be recruited. To test the psychometric properties of the questionnaire we will administer it to a sample of approximately 1,000 home care workers in two home care agencies. To examine internal consistency, we will assess Cronbach's alpha. To assess inter-item correlation and item-scale correlation, we will calculate Pearson's  $r$ . For construct validity, we will perform confirmatory factor analysis, assessing Comparative Fit Index (CFI), Tucker Lewis Index (TLI), Root Mean Squared Error Approximation (RMSEA), and Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR). Criterion validity assesses correlations between the instrument and constructs measured that are similar to safety climate.

### Expected results

By contributing with a valid instrument to measure safety culture/climate in home care setting, we expect to facilitate reliable evaluations of safety culture/climate in the French-speaking region of Switzerland. The validated instrument will enable to monitor the impact of interventions to improve the safety culture/climate. This is in line with the aims of the Federal Office of Public Health, to promote a safety culture in health care institutions. We anticipate that the adapted instrument will be useful for the entire French-speaking region and that it could serve as a foundation for the Italian and German-speaking Switzerland. Measuring staff's perspective together with client experiences and other existing safety indicators will provide a more accurate view of the safety in the organizations and consequently facilitate the identification of areas for improvement to design a safer work environment for home care workers and clients.