

Detecting safe patient peer leaders with social network analysis

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TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Safe patient handling, occupational health nursing, occupational health and safety researchers and practitioners

ABSTRACT: The aim of this presentation is to discuss how Social Network Analysis (SNA), a statistical technique that illustrates how people are interconnected with each other in relation to an attribute, can be applied to identify safe patient handling champions at a community hospital in Oregon. Nurses were asked to identify as many peers they would consult for information about safe patient handling. Optimal champion candidates were defined as those who could maximize the flow of advice in the network. These criteria were also correlated with higher frequency of patient equipment use and other safety and leadership attributes. The presentation will discuss which relational patterns could maximize the potential behavioral influence of safety champions.

OBJECTIVE(S): Discuss the utility of social network analysis to identify safety peer leaders

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