The Importance of Safety Culture in Nursing Homes

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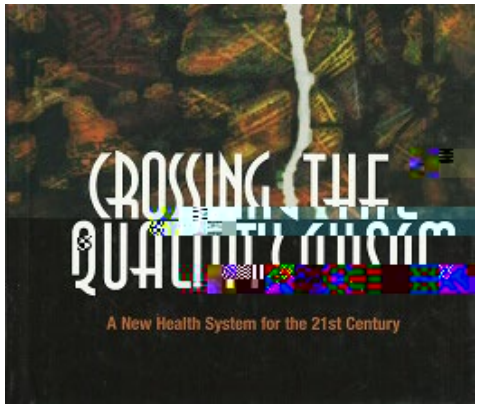
The Importance of Safety Culture

- The 1999 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report that identified between 44,000 and 98,000 individuals die each year as a result of medical mistakes.



Patient Safety Culture: An Increasing Priority

- Patient safety culture (PSC) has emerged as a top priority of many healthcare settings

- Nursing Homes lag in this area
  - Presidential agenda (2022)
  - National Academies (2022)

  - IHI National Action Plan (2022)

The Importance of Safety Culture

"The most fundamental barrier to improving the safety of patient care – the culture." (Cooper, 2003)

- Nursing Home SOPS provides staff perceptions of patient safety culture

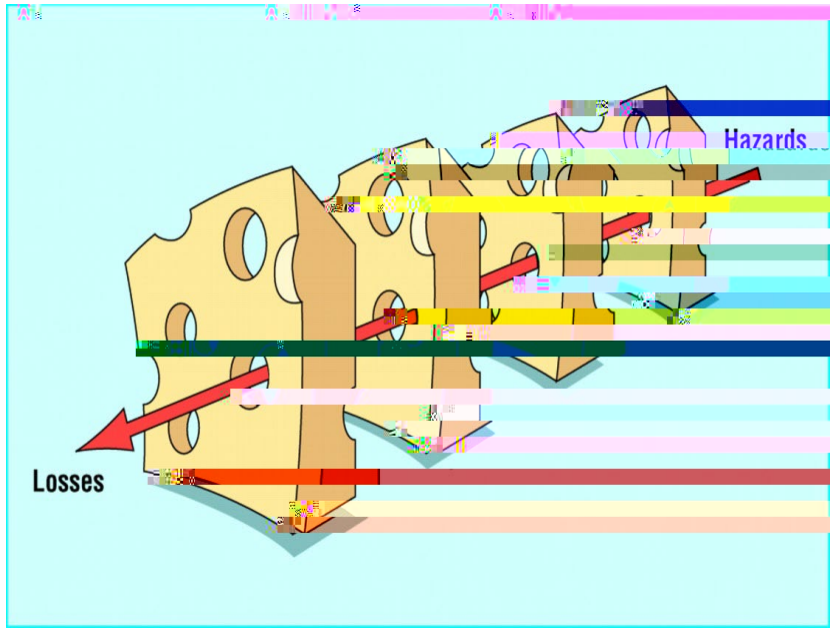
What Influences Patient Safety Culture?

- Processes of Care (It’s the process, not the people)
- Systems Thinking

A culture of blame

Staff come to work to do a good job

The Swiss Cheese Model



Reason J. Human Error 1990

Patient Safety Culture in Nursing Homes

- Safety culture influences staff as well as residents
  - Overall injury rate for nurse aides is second among all industries.

- Patient safety MAY be another problem with the image of nursing homes

SOPS Nursing Homes

- Patient safety is not about telling people to be more careful.
- Improving patient safety is about changing organizational culture from one of blame and punishment to one which is just.
- SOPS Nursing Homes.