

**2017 ANNA NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**  
APRIL 7-10 ~ MARRIOTT WARDMAN PARK, WASHINGTON, DC

**What Is Our Culture of Safety? An Analysis of Staff Perceptions  
about Culture of Safety in the Outpatient Dialysis Setting**

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**Background:** The 2014 "Assessing the Patient Safety Culture in Nephrology Nurse Practices" provided the first insight to perceptions about culture of safety from the perspective of nurses working in the nephrology field. The outpatient dialysis facility environment uses advanced technology and a multidisciplinary collaborative approach to provide multifaceted care. This study used the "Assessing the Patient Safety Culture in Nephrology Nurse Practices" survey to learn about culture of safety in the outpatient dialysis setting. The purpose of this pilot study was to assess the perceptions of culture of safety from the perspective of the multidisciplinary staff in five outpatient dialysis units and compare the results to those from the landmark 2014 study and the AHRQ patient safety culture surveys.

**Methods:** A mixed-methods online survey was used to collect data about the perceptions of the multidisciplinary team at five outpatient dialysis facilities. Frequencies and means were calculated on all survey responses. Percent positive responses were calculated for comparison to the NNPS and AHRQ patient safety culture results.

**Results:** The results for Overall Perception of Patient Safety was 54% which was lower than the NNPS survey of 58% and the AHRQ of 64%. Communication Openness resulted in a 67% positive response which was equal to the NNPS survey but remained lower than the AHRQ result of 76%. Feedback and Communication about Error percent positive score was 69% which resulted higher than the percent positive score for the NNPS survey 60% and AHRQ of 67%. 21% of the respondents felt like their mistakes were held against them which was slightly higher than the NNPS survey result of 20%. 69% of the respondents feel as though they are part of team but only 20% of the respondents feel as though they work as a team to get the work done.

**Conclusions:** The results for this survey were comparable to the results in the NNPS survey and AHRQ surveys. The perceptions of culture of patient safety in the five outpatient dialysis units participating support the need for engaging the team to work together and move toward a culture that does not look to blame an individual rather it looks to improve processes to improve patient safety.

*Abstract selected for presentation at ANNA National Symposium, Washington, DC, 2017*