BOOKS, ETC.


Patient Safety Culture: Theory, Methods, and Application delivers a comprehensive introduction to the culture and practices of patient safety for both the novice and experienced clinician reader. Chapters are authored by recognized experts, with Dr Waterson editing the entire volume. The text is organized into four major sections: background and theory, methods and tools, application and practice, and additional perspectives and future directions.

Waterson clearly encompasses patient safety culture and questions associated with the topic in his well-written introduction, framing the following sections. Of note is Waterson’s systematic review of previous work in patient safety as well as the introduction of current discussions within the field. Section one, Background and Theory, addresses existing previous research in patient safety, including measures of culture within organizations, and highlights the importance of adapting to systems capable of learning from errors.

The second section, Methods and Tools, explores techniques utilized to measure and validate patient safety measures and interventions, highlighting successful and unsuccessful integration of safety tools and reviewing lessons learned from those experiences. Section three, Application and Practice, highlights examples of patient safety culture from practitioners in direct patient care activities. Valuable insight emerges on real-world applications of patient safety culture activities and interventions from European and US health systems.

The final section, Patient Safety Culture: Theory, Methods, and Application, presents a comprehensive review of the subject matter, and explores current tools for identifying and approaching patient safety issues. While not an easy read, the book is a valuable tool and asset for practitioners and researchers interested in the field of patient safety and safety culture.

Major take-away thoughts from the book:

- Safety culture represents a shared understanding of reality within a defined group with perception and experience directing meaningful measurement and corrective action. Context is vital when reviewing patient safety culture interventions; the key domains identified are, 1) Microsystems where culture is different from other similar work units, 2) Unit level influences that directly affect practitioners’ safety culture, and 3) Organizational culture supporting reporting mechanisms, issue resolution, and behavioral practice changes.

- Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Programs (CUSP) provide the greatest improvement in patient safety culture and include safety science education, practitioner-identified safety issues, stakeholder engagement, asking questions to identify deficits, and teamwork and communication training.

A shared model of safety culture integrating European and US healthcare delivery systems validates the potential of an organized and systematic approach based in safety science. Patient safety is the priority; this text is both recipe and testimonial to that axiom.

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This fictional story acts as a moral compass for all who care for others from healthcare clinicians to administrators. Joe Tye demonstrates to readers how becoming invested in your place of employment can activate positive change. This book is a valuable resource for not just nurse anesthetists but for anyone employed by a healthcare facility.

In this heartwarming and thought provoking story taking place in modern times Florence Nightingale comes back from the dead in order to see how we are doing today. In Florence Nightingale’s time there is no doubt she confronted a healthcare crisis at the Scutari Barrack Hospital during the Crimean War. Yet, despite multiple challenges, she succeeded in defining the profession of nursing, managed to establish the first hospital pharmacy, and created nutrition, library, accounting, and infection
control processes still in use today. Her meticulous record keeping was the forerunner to the medical records and epidemiology functions of modern hospitals. However, this book is not about the remarkable things Florence Nightingale accomplished but rather what she would tell us to do today for our modern hospitals to thrive. What would Florence prescribe to help foster a positive and productive workplace environment?

The Florence Prescription instructs readers how to change the culture of their workplace by following the “self-empowerment pledge,” which lays out seven simple promises that, if followed, can change an organization for the better. These principles are:

1. Responsibility
2. Accountability
3. Determination
4. Contribution
5. Resilience
6. Perspective
7. Faith

Tye demonstrates how practicing each of these seven values helps to empower oneself and thus empower others. If we each do our own part, we can change our own lives for the better. But if we all do our parts, we can change our entire organization for the better.

Also noteworthy are the eight essential characteristics that make up a culture of ownership:

1. Commitment
2. Engagement
3. Passion
4. Initiative
5. Stewardship
6. Belonging
7. Fellowship
8. Pride

It is important that we learn these principles and characteristics as we unknowingly practice ownership daily. For example if a homeowner has pride in their ownership, they will not need someone else to tell them to mow their lawns, instead they have a mindset that encourages them to take initiative when it needs to be done and mow it themselves. Tye educates readers on how these everyday values translate to the workplace and more specifically, to healthcare. In addition, readers will learn how to help people confront toxic emotional negativity and promote a more positive and productive workplace attitude. Overall we learn that emotions, both positive and negative, are contagious.

With a reader friendly format, Tye focuses on the topic of ownership and how empowering people can foster a culture of optimism and determination. Although the story is fictional it draws on the experiences of both its author, Joe Tye, a CEO and head of Values Coach Inc. and a leading authority on organizational effectiveness, and Dick Schwab who is a corporate CEO and chair of a hospital board. The book also includes study questions to help readers apply the lessons Tye teaches to their own place of employment. Furthermore, the book has a website that provides additional resources (www.theflorencechallenge.com). After reading this book it is clear that we are really the ones responsible for our own actions and feelings and, thus, the experiences we have in our workplace.

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