

Title: Developing an evidence-based adverse event reporting guidelines for the Accident and Emergency Unit

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Abstract

Introduction: According to WHO, millions of patients suffer injuries or die due to unsafe health care globally, with 134 million adverse events occurring in low- and middle-income countries alone, contributing to 2.6 million deaths. Even in high-income countries, about 1 in 10 patients is harmed while receiving hospital care, which are caused by a range of adverse events, with nearly 50% of them being preventable. Emergency units are not well designed, equipped or staffed to provide care to patients for a prolonged period. Emergency care services in Ghana do not have a well-designed reporting guideline for its healthcare workforce in advancing quality improvements to patient safety and also dealing with the risks of adverse events. The current state of reporting adverse events is baffled by the lack of a simplified reporting format; and therefore, there is lack of inadequate information on the incidence of harm caused to patients, and as such limited attention on patient safety issues.

Purpose of study: The study therefore aims at developing an evidence-based adverse event reporting guidelines for the Accident and Emergency Units.

Theoretical framework: Patient Safety Culture model will be selected to drive the organization of the research. From the model, enabling factors generate an environment that allows healthcare workforce to adopt, organizational assumptions, values, and norms to enact activities or strategies that promote adverse event reporting.

Design: The explanatory sequential mixed-methods research approach will be employed for this study. The GRADE tool which is made up of two basic stages; Systematic Review and Guideline Development will be employed. Based on the objectives of the study, the entire approach will therefore involve four phases of systematic review, quantitative method, qualitative methods, and development and validation of the guideline.

Implications: Findings from the study will help improve adverse event reporting in emergency care. It will also aid in providing direction on patient's safety research in the future.