Patient safety in critical condition

Top threats point back to incomplete data
Patient safety continues to be a major priority within the healthcare industry, specifically for physician and nurse leaders.

In an effort to understand the industry’s top concerns with patient safety, Philips commissioned a survey by Regina Corso Consulting which looks at what physician leaders (chief medical officers and medical directors), and nurse leaders (chief nursing officers and nursing directors), in the U.S. consider their top concerns and threats in patient safety. This information reaffirms how patient safety is not just a priority for the healthcare industry, but also a major concern, and how the use of technology can help address the challenges faced by physicians and nurses.

This survey was conducted online by Regina Corso Consulting on behalf of Philips from September 6-18, 2017, among 251 adults ages 18 and older in the U.S., with 126 of respondents being nurse leaders and 125 respondents being physician leaders. For complete survey methodology, including weighting variables, please contact Jeannie O’Leary at jeannie.oleary@philips.com.
Demographics

On average, the physician and nurse leaders are 49 years old.

Physician leaders are 70% male and 30% female while nurse leaders are 83% female and 17% male.

Both physician leaders and nurse leaders have been in their current roles for an average of 12 years.

Types of hospitals/health systems where survey respondents currently work

**Physician leaders**
- Community hospital: 39%
- Large hospital: 31%
- Teaching/academic hospital: 26%
- Integrated Delivery Network (IDN): 17%
- Rural hospital: 5%
- Government owned hospital: 2%
- Some other institution: 1%

**Nurse leaders**
- Community hospital: 39%
- Large hospital: 25%
- Teaching/academic hospital: 26%
- Integrated Delivery Network (IDN): 11%
- Rural hospital: 10%
- Government owned hospital: 4%
- Some other institution: 4%
There is no debate
Patient safety is still a concern

- Patient safety is a huge concern and an issue that keeps both groups up at night.
- Physician and nurse leaders say there is a need for better clinical decision tools.
- Physician and nurse leaders agree that better access to critical patient data is beneficial to clinician response.
- The security of patient data is one of their hospital's top concerns when it comes to the overall IT (information technology) concerns they have.
- Patient safety is at risk when exchanging information between departments.

**Physician leaders agree**

**Nurse leaders agree**
Patient safety’s top threats

When presented with a list of six options, the top three threats to patient safety between physician and nurse leaders collectively are inconsistent care delivery, having incomplete data on patients and alarm fatigue.

- Inconsistent data: 78% (physician), 75% (nurse)
  - Inconsistent care delivery is a threat to patient care.

- Lack of complete data: 78% (physician), 75% (nurse)
  - Having incomplete data is a threat to patient care.

- Alarm fatigue: 74% (physician), 79% (nurse)
  - Alarm fatigue contributes to dangers to patient care overall.
  - Alarm fatigue contributes to staff stress.

- Lack of patient data during in-hospital transport is a risk to the patient: 74% (physician), 74% (nurse)

- Want staff to see data waveforms on mobile devices, but they don’t currently have access: 75% (physician), 79% (nurse)

- Both groups say lack of complete data on patients is a cause of clinical inefficiencies: 71% (physician), 67% (nurse)

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Differing perspectives
Physician and nurse leaders’ top concerns

While patient safety is a major concern unanimously with physician and nurse leaders, both parties think differently on what the top threats are when presented with a list of six options.

Physician leaders say
- Inconsistent care delivery and having incomplete data on patients are the biggest threat to patient care and safety.

Nurse leaders think a little differently
- Alarm fatigue is the top threat to patient care.
- Inconsistent care delivery the second biggest threat.

Physician leaders are more likely than nurse leaders to say that the lack of IT integration across clinical systems is a threat to patient care.

- 78% of physician leaders agree
- 76% of nurse leaders agree

- 76% of physician leaders agree
- 66% of nurse leaders agree

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Tackling patient safety concerns with technology

As patient safety is on the top of everyone’s mind, physician and nurse leaders agree there are elements that can help address the concerns of the healthcare industry.

- 93% 97% A well-implemented patient monitoring system is critical to managing clinical variation.
- 91% 97% Patient monitoring must be consistent in order to move healthcare forward.
- 90% 98% A secure patient monitoring system is a key component to patient safety.
- 90% 96% Good patient monitoring tools are critical to delivering good patient care.

For more than nine in ten physician leaders and nurse leaders, patient monitoring has many crucial elements to patient care.

- 92% 98% Keeping patient monitoring tools current is important to moving healthcare forward.
- 87% 97% Having a gap-free patient monitoring data record is essential for good patient care.

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