Safety Attitudes and Safety Culture in General Practice

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General practice is a complex clinical environment.

General practice nurses make up 45% of the clinical workforce. Involved in over 7.7 million patient consultations each year[1].

GPN role [2,3,4]:

- Primary, seasonal and specific purpose immunisations
- Preventative healthcare
- Chronic Disease management
- HSE services – cervical screening, contraception
- Advanced practice consultations include assessment, treatment (including nurse prescribing), referral and appropriate follow-up

Increased demand on general practice- population growth and ageing, opportunistic screening and preventative care, chronic disease management, and a rising prevalence of multi-morbidities[5].

Sláintecare – Shift from hospital-based to primary care-based services

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Safety is a critical element of nursing practice

Nurses play an important role :

Identifying

Preventing

Reporting safety incidents across care settings

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0830	Phlebotomy
0845	CDM Diabetes + Phlebotomy
0900	Remove & Read ABPM
0915	Health assessment + Phlebotomy
0930	Hypertension review + Phlebotomy
0945	Sexual health screen
1000	Primary immunisation
1015	ECG
1030	Cervical smear
1045	Asthma review
1100	Break
1115	Cover reception break
1130	Assist with 6 week check
1145	Primary immunisation
1200	Contraception review
1215	Review results with GP
1230	Contact patients with results, phone consultations

1300	Lunch Break
1400	Flu vaccines (5-minute intervals, 10-12 patients)
1500	Apply ABPM
1515	Women's health check
1530	IM cancer treatment medication
1545	Psychological review
1600	Break
1615	Asthma review + Inhaler Demo
1630	Diabetes review + Foot exam
1645	Cardiovascular review + ECG
1700	Postnatal depression
1715	Cervical smear
1730	Contact patients with results, phone consultations, return phone calls
1745	Tidy-up Phone consultations
1800	Finish

Appointment Diary GPN

22 in-person consultations
10 flu vaccinations
8 phone consultations

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Safety considerations in general practice

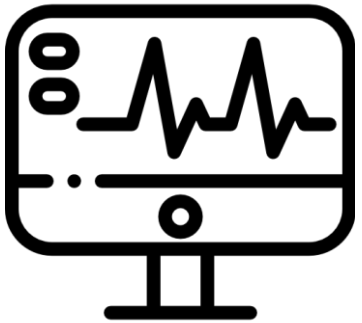
- **Infection Prevention & Control**
- **Practice Facilities & Physical Environment**
  - Hazardous Materials & Waste
- **Medication Safety**
  - Safe handling of chemicals/biologicals
- **Equipment, Ergonomics & IT Systems**
  - Manual handling
  - Equipment maintenance
- **Clinical Risk Management**
- **Workload Management**
  - Staff capacity & competencies
- **Safeguarding & Vulnerable Patient Protection**
- **Communication & Patient Engagement**
- **Data Security & Confidentiality**
- **Culture of Safety & Continuous Improvement**







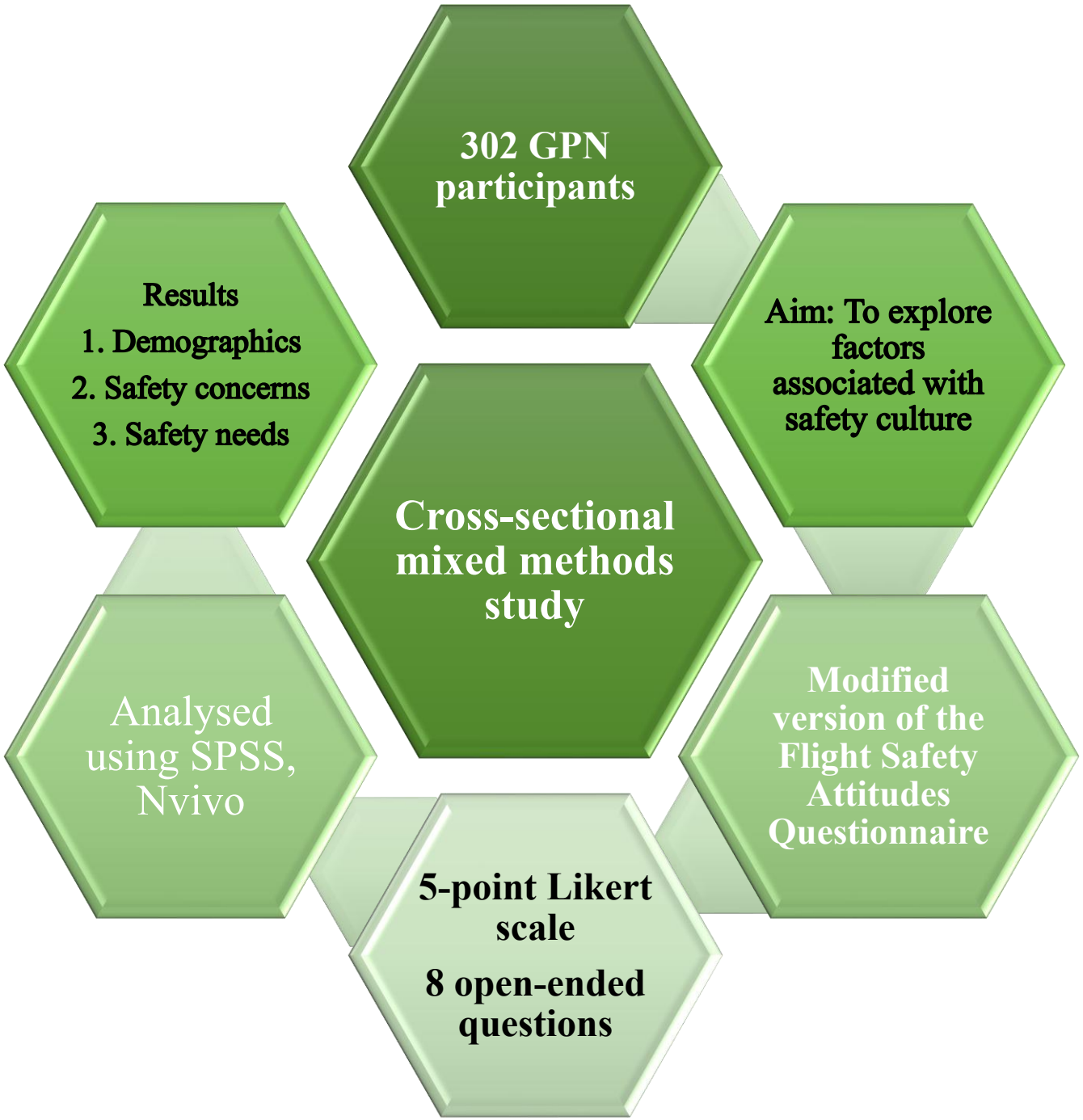
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Research

Safety attitudes of GPNs[5]



RESULTS

Length of work experience as a GPN and smaller team size (number of GPs and GPNs in practice), is positively linked with safety attitudes among GPNs

GPN identified safety concerns within their practice:

- ❑ High workload and clinical time constraints
- ❑ Unsystematic communication methods
- ❑ Insufficient and inconsistent communication
- ❑ Inadequate emergency training and preparedness
- ❑ Unsupportive teamwork

GPN identified safety **needs** within their practice

- ❑ Structured and formalised communication system
- ❑ Regular and organised operational briefings
- ❑ Frequent emergency training and clear emergency protocols
- ❑ Ensuring all staff, including GPNs, are heard and valued



By implementing safety strategies, general practice can enhance its safety culture, creating a safer environment for both staff and patients.

Enhancing Training & Mentorship can contribute to clearer role definition and more effective communication.

Improving Communication Systems by developing structured briefings and formal meetings can foster collaboration and preparedness, particularly within larger teams.

Tackling Systemic Challenges including workload management and role recognition to create a more supportive work environment.

Boosting Team Cohesion to strengthen teamwork, especially in high-pressure and emergency situations.

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Thank You

Questions ???

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