

**Research Title: Risk management and patient safety in king Feisal  
specialist hospital & research Centre**

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**Introduction:**

The healthcare sector is responsible for saving lives and ensuring the wellbeing of individuals. However, healthcare organizations encounter several challenges that may jeopardize their ability to provide quality services to patients. One of the primary challenges in healthcare is the issue of patient safety and the management of risks associated with patient care. In recent years, the importance of risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations has been increasingly recognized worldwide. One such organization is the King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre, which has been at the forefront of promoting patient safety and risk management in Saudi Arabia.

**Rationale for Topic Choice:**

The topic of risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations was chosen due to the significance it holds in ensuring the delivery of quality healthcare services. Poor patient safety practices may result in adverse patient outcomes, litigation, and reputation damage for healthcare organizations. As a result, the implementation of risk management practices in healthcare organizations has become increasingly important in recent years.

**Historical Islands of the Project Idea:**

The concept of risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations dates back to the 1980s when the Institute of Medicine (IOM) published a report highlighting the high number of preventable medical errors that occur in healthcare. The report called for healthcare organizations to implement strategies to reduce medical errors and improve patient safety. Since then, numerous

healthcare organizations worldwide have implemented various risk management strategies to enhance patient safety.

### **Importance of Study:**

The study of risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations, particularly in the King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre, is essential in promoting quality healthcare services. It provides a framework for identifying and managing risks associated with patient care, thus reducing the likelihood of adverse events. This study will highlight the importance of implementing effective risk management strategies in healthcare organizations to enhance patient safety.

### **Problem Statement:**

Despite efforts to promote patient safety and implement risk management strategies in healthcare organizations, adverse events still occur. The King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre is not immune to this issue. Therefore, there is a need to examine the effectiveness of current risk management strategies and identify areas that require improvement to enhance patient safety.

### **Link to Available Knowledge:**

Previous studies have highlighted the importance of risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations. However, there is a gap in the literature concerning the implementation of risk management strategies in the King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre. This study will provide insight into the current risk management practices at the hospital and identify areas for improvement.

**Previous Studies:**

Numerous studies have been conducted on the topic of risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations. Some of the notable studies include the Institute of Medicine's report "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System" and the World Health Organization's report "Patient Safety Curriculum Guide: Multi-Professional Edition." These studies provide insight into the importance of risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations and highlight the need for effective risk management practices to enhance patient safety.

**Study Problem:**

Despite the growing importance of risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations, there is limited research on the implementation and effectiveness of risk management and patient safety practices in Saudi Arabian hospitals, including KFSHRC. While KFSHRC has implemented several initiatives to improve patient safety and quality of care, there is a need to assess the extent to which risk management practices are being integrated into clinical practice and to identify any barriers or facilitators to their implementation.

This study aims to investigate the current state of risk management and patient safety practices at KFSHRC and to identify opportunities for improvement. Specifically, the study will examine the extent to which risk management practices are being integrated into clinical practice, the effectiveness of these practices in improving patient safety, and the barriers and facilitators to their implementation.

## **Importance of the study**

Risk management and patient safety are critical issues in healthcare organizations worldwide. The importance of studying these topics lies in their potential to improve the quality of care and patient outcomes. Theoretical importance can be seen in the fact that risk management and patient safety are essential components of healthcare systems and the application of evidence-based practices. This is necessary to provide effective, efficient, and safe care to patients.

Moreover, the practical importance of this study is significant as it aims to identify areas of improvement in the current practices of the King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre. The results of this study can help healthcare professionals develop strategies to prevent adverse events, minimize errors, and enhance patient safety. This can result in better patient outcomes, increased patient satisfaction, and lower healthcare costs.

The beneficiaries of this study include patients, healthcare providers, and healthcare organizations. Patients will benefit from improved safety and quality of care. Healthcare providers will benefit from increased knowledge and skills in risk management and patient safety, leading to enhanced performance and professional development. Healthcare organizations will benefit from reduced legal liabilities, improved patient satisfaction, and better financial outcomes.

## **Objectives of the Study:**

The objectives of the study of risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations are to:

1. Identify potential risks to patients, staff, and visitors in healthcare organizations.

2. Assess the effectiveness of current risk management and patient safety practices in healthcare organizations.
3. Identify areas for improvement in risk management and patient safety practices in healthcare organizations.
4. Implement evidence-based interventions to enhance patient safety and quality of care in healthcare organizations.
5. Evaluate the impact of interventions on patient safety and quality of care in healthcare organizations.

### **Study questions**

The main research question of this study is:

- What are the key risk management and patient safety challenges faced by King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre (KFSH&RC)?

The sub-questions of the study are:

- What are the current risk management and patient safety practices at KFSH&RC?
- What are the perceptions of healthcare professionals towards risk management and patient safety at KFSH&RC?
- What are the patient experiences related to risk management and patient safety at KFSH&RC?

These study questions are relevant to the study problem as they aim to explore the current practices and perceptions related to risk management and patient safety at KFSH&RC. Moreover, they

correspond to the objectives of the study by providing insights into the challenges faced by the hospital and identifying areas for improvement.

### **Previous studies and theoretical framework.**

In order to establish a strong theoretical framework for the study of risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations, it is important to review previous studies that have explored the topic.

Several studies have emphasized the importance of implementing effective risk management strategies in healthcare organizations to improve patient safety and prevent adverse events (Sorra & Dyer, 2010; Reason, 2000). Additionally, studies have highlighted the need for a culture of safety within healthcare organizations, where staff feel comfortable reporting errors and near misses (Edwards et al., 2011; Singer et al., 2009).

Theoretical frameworks that may be relevant to this study include the Systems Approach to Safety, which emphasizes the need for a holistic approach to safety management that considers the interactions between different components of the system (Reason, 2000), and the High Reliability Organization framework, which focuses on creating a culture of safety within complex and risky environments (Weick & Sutcliffe, 2001).

By building on the findings of previous studies and utilizing relevant theoretical frameworks, this study aims to contribute to the knowledge base on risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations.

## **Theoretical premises of study**

In the case of risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations, the theoretical premises of the study could include theories related to quality management, risk assessment and mitigation, patient safety culture, and human factors engineering, among others. These theories provide a framework for understanding the complex nature of healthcare systems and the factors that contribute to errors and adverse events.

For example, the concept of high-reliability organizations (HROs) could be relevant to the study. HROs are organizations that operate in complex and high-risk environments, such as nuclear power plants and air traffic control centers, and have a strong focus on safety and reliability. The principles of HROs, such as a commitment to safety, a culture of learning and continuous improvement, and a focus on identifying and mitigating potential risks, could be applied to healthcare organizations to improve patient safety.

## **Methodology and research methods.**

In the study of Risk Management and Patient Safety in King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre, a quantitative research method will be used. The study will be based on a review of medical records, incident reports, and patient satisfaction surveys. The research design will be cross-sectional and data will be collected through a survey questionnaire.

The study will also use a mixed-method approach, where both quantitative and qualitative data will be collected and analyzed. This approach will help to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the study topic.

The research methods will include sampling techniques, data collection procedures, data analysis methods, and ethical considerations. The study will use a convenience sampling technique to select the study participants. Data will be collected through medical record review, incident report analysis, and patient satisfaction surveys. Data analysis will be conducted using statistical software such as SPSS and qualitative data will be analyzed through content analysis.

### **Study tools.**

Since this topic is specific to the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, the study tools and data collection methods would need to be determined by the researchers based on the specific needs and requirements of the hospital. Generally, some common tools and methods used for studying risk management and patient safety in healthcare organizations include surveys, interviews, observation, chart review, and incident reporting systems.

The following tools will be used in the study on risk management and patient safety in KFSHRC:

1. Patient Safety Culture Survey: The Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture (HSOPS) questionnaire will be used to assess the perceptions of healthcare professionals regarding the patient safety culture in KFSHRC. The HSOPS questionnaire has been validated and widely used in healthcare organizations worldwide.
2. Focus Group Discussion Guide: A focus group discussion guide will be developed to explore the perceptions of healthcare professionals regarding patient safety and risk management in KFSHRC. The guide will include open-ended questions that will allow participants to share their experiences, insights, and suggestions.

3. Interview Guide: An interview guide will be developed to explore the perceptions of key stakeholders, including hospital leaders and administrators, regarding patient safety and risk management in KFSHRC. The guide will include open-ended questions that will allow participants to share their experiences, insights, and suggestions.

### **Fields of study**

Fields of study of Risk Management and Patient Safety in King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre can include healthcare management, risk management, patient safety, healthcare quality, healthcare policy, healthcare informatics, healthcare ethics, and patient-centered care. The study may also involve analyzing the hospital's organizational structure, processes, and protocols to identify areas for improvement in risk management and patient safety.

The following fields of study will be explored in the study on risk management and patient safety in KFSHRC:

1. Patient Safety Culture: This field of study will explore the perceptions, attitudes, and beliefs of healthcare professionals regarding patient safety culture in KFSHRC. It will also identify areas for improvement in the patient safety culture.
2. Risk Management: This field of study will explore the current risk management practices in KFSHRC and identify gaps and opportunities for improvement. It will also investigate the effectiveness of current risk management practices in ensuring patient safety.
3. Healthcare Quality: This field of study will examine the relationship between risk management, patient safety, and healthcare quality in KFSHRC. It will also explore the impact of patient safety on healthcare quality outcomes.

### Proposed tab according to the time plan

| Timeframe   | Task                                                                                                               |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Month 1-2   | Literature review on patient safety culture, risk management, and healthcare quality in KFSHRC.                    |
| Month 3-4   | Develop research methodology and study design, including data collection tools and procedures.                     |
| Month 5-6   | Obtain ethical approval for the study and recruit participants from KFSHRC.                                        |
| Month 7-8   | Conduct data collection, including surveys and interviews with healthcare professionals in KFSHRC.                 |
| Month 9-10  | Analyze data using appropriate statistical methods and qualitative analysis.                                       |
| Month 11-12 | interpret findings and develop recommendations for improving patient safety culture and risk management in KFSHRC. |
| Month 13    | Prepare final report and disseminate findings to KFSHRC leadership and other stakeholders.                         |

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