

RESEARCH ARTICLE

A concept analysis of psychological safety: Further understanding for application to health care

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Abstract

Aim: To clarify the concept of psychological safety in a healthcare context and to provide the first theoretical framework for improving interpersonal relationships in the workplace to better patient care.

Design: A Rodgers' concept analysis.

Methods: The concept analysis was conducted using a systematic search strategy on PubMed, CINAHL, PsycINFO and Ichushi-Web.

Results: An analysis of 88 articles studying psychological safety in health care identified five attributes: perceptions of the consequences of taking interpersonal risks, strong interpersonal relationships, group-level phenomenon, safe work environment for taking interpersonal risks and non-punitive culture. The antecedents included structure/system factors, interpersonal factors and individual factors. The four consequences included performance outcomes, organizational culture outcomes, and psychological and behavioural outcomes.

KEYWORDS

concept analysis, health care, interpersonal risk, learning behaviour, patient safety, psychological safety, reporting error, speaking up

1 | INTRODUCTION

Improving patient safety is a top priority in health care around the world (WHO, 2019). According to the World Health Organization (2019), providing an open and blame-free safety culture around incident reporting is crucial for maintaining patient safety. Meanwhile, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2017) advises that a focus on collective improvement and teamwork is also crucial for patient safety. Establishing a sense of psychological safety in the clinical environment fosters these elements, allowing nurses to more effectively ensure patient safety.

2 | BACKGROUND

The concept of psychological safety has been discussed across various disciplines and industries such as aviation, education and manufacturing. Common definitions of psychological safety include 'feeling able to show and employ one's self without fear of negative consequences to self-image, status, or career' (Kahn, 1990, p. 708) and 'a shared belief that the team is safe for interpersonal risk-taking' (Edmondson, 1999, p. 354). This concept's application has spread to the healthcare discipline since it is known to yield positive healthcare outcomes. Recent studies in health care have demonstrated that psychological safety influences patient safety, interprofessional

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collaboration, engagement in quality improvement work, learning from failures and reporting adverse events (Arnetz, Sudan, Goetz, Counts, & Arnetzet al., 2019; Greene et al., 2020; Hirak et al., 2012; O'Leary, 2016; Tucker et al., 2007). Thus, psychological safety is considered a critical factor to account for in projects that seek to better health care, including those interested in high-quality nursing, effective teamwork and patient safety.

Although research on psychological safety has increased in the healthcare field, its definition in this context remains unclear. A concept taken from other domains should be critically considered about its utility and importance in a new domain (Meleis, 2017). However, little research has discussed psychological safety in a theoretical sense. For example, one study has described psychological safety using the same concept as trust (Kang et al., 2020); others have described psychological safety as a speaking-up-related climate, part of justice culture, or feeling of safety around innovation (Appelbaum et al., 2018; Schwappach et al., 2018; Zuber & Moody, 2018). The lack of theoretical underpinning may hinder the advancement in healthcare management in terms of ensuring a conducive environment for high-quality care. Furthermore, few specific tools measure psychological safety in a healthcare context (O'Donovan et al., 2020). For example, Edmondson (1999) developed a scale to measure psychological safety in a general context including health care; meanwhile, Richard et al. (2017) developed a questionnaire measuring aspects such as psychological safety that influence speaking-up behaviour among healthcare staff about patient safety concerns. Nonetheless, the lack of statistically rigorous measurements of psychological safety, specifically in the context of health care (O'Donovan et al., 2020), prevents the exploration of its antecedents and implications for healthcare management.

2.1 | Research question

A concept analysis can clarify the structures of a concept and its relationships to other concepts. It also highlights implications for future scale development and clinical practices. Rodgers (2000) developed a concept analysis approach to describe a concept that changes in a context, allowing for its development and further research. Thus,

this study aimed to identify the concept of psychological safety in a healthcare context through a Rodgers' concept analysis and provide the first theoretical foundations for how such an understanding may better interpersonal relationships and patient care. Therefore, our research question was What are the attributes, antecedents and consequences of psychological safety in the context of health care?

3 | THE STUDY

3.1 | Design

This study used Rodgers' evolutionary approach. Rodgers' approach aims to capture changing and evolving concepts over time and develop a concept for further research and clinical practice. It includes the following six steps to analyse a concept: (1) identifying the concept of interest and associated expressions; (2) identifying and selecting an appropriate realm (setting and sample) for data collection; (3) collecting data relevant to identify the attributes of the concept, the antecedents, consequences and related concepts; (4) analysing the data in terms of the above characteristics of the concept; (5) identifying an exemplar of the concept, if appropriate; and (6) identifying implications, hypotheses and implications for further development of the concept (Rodgers, 2000, p.85).

3.2 | Method

This concept analysis was conducted using a systematic search strategy on PubMed, CINAHL, PsycINFO and Ichushi-Web, with no publication date limitation. Keywords used were as follows: "psychological safety [AB]" was used in PubMed, CINAHL and Ichushi-Web; "psychological safety [AB]" AND (health care OR doctor OR physician OR nurs* OR hospital OR medic*) were used in PsycINFO. This study was undertaken in April 2020.

The search yielded 300 articles after removing duplicates. Articles that met the following inclusion criteria were selected: (1) focused on concepts of psychological safety, (2) conducted in health care, (3) employees completed a survey, (4) were not literature review articles, (5)

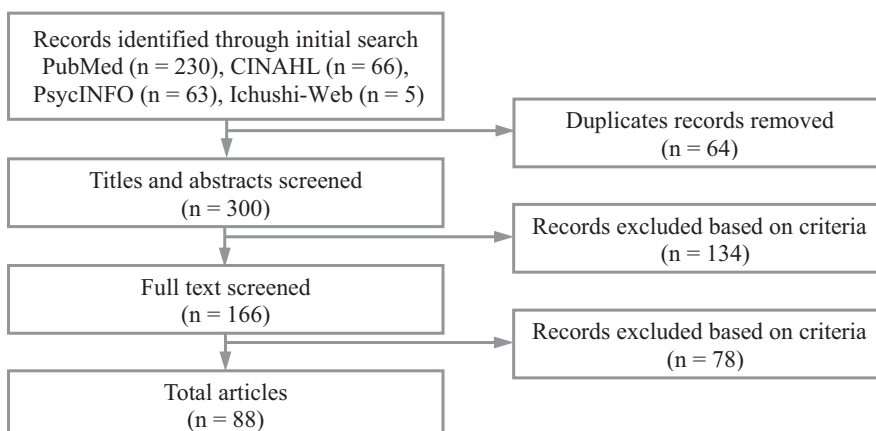


FIGURE 1 Flowchart of article selection

was an empirical study, (6) not duplicated among databases and (7) other reasons, such as written in English and Japanese and availability of the full text. Two reviewers scanned the titles and abstracts of the articles. As shown in Figure 1, this procedure excluded 134 articles. Additionally, 78 articles were excluded through the full-text scanning by the reviewers. Finally, this systematic strategy led to 88 articles. The PRISMA guideline was used for this concept analysis.

3.3 | Analysis

As described by Rodgers (2000), a thematic analysis was conducted to identify the concept, and descriptions of attributes, antecedents and consequences were selected from each article. According to Rodgers' approach, attributes constitute a real definition, an antecedent is a phenomenon before an instance of the concept, and a consequence is a result of the concept (Rodgers, 2000). The findings from the articles were put into the matrix sheet. Subsequently, they were categorized and organized the descriptions according to their similarities and trends. Finally, we again grouped the categories made to increase the level of abstraction. This analysis process was repeated until four researchers agreed on the whole process of categorizations and abstractions.

3.4 | Ethics

We declare no conflicts of interest associated with this manuscript. This work was supported by JSPS KAKENHI, Grant Number JP19H03920. Furthermore, this concept analysis was not needed the Research Ethics Committee approval and the patient consent because our study analysed only published articles.

4 | RESULTS

4.1 | Overview of contexts and results

Table A1 in the Appendix lists the 88 articles analysed in this study. Of these 88 articles, 60 were published between 2016 and 2020. Fifty-one articles cited definitions of psychological safety by Edmondson (1999). Fifty-eight articles used instruments to measure psychological safety, of which 35 (60.3%) used self-report measurements developed by Edmondson (1999). Additionally, 47 of the included articles were studies conducted in Northern America (United States: $n = 47$; Canada: $n = 1$), 26 in Europe (Western: $n = 16$; Northern: $n = 9$; Southern: $n = 1$) and 8 in Asia (Western: $n = 4$; Eastern: $n = 2$; Southeastern: $n = 1$; and Southern: $n = 1$).

This concept analysis identified five attributes, three antecedents and four consequences. Figure 2 illustrates the conceptual model of psychological safety in the healthcare context based on the findings of this analysis.

4.2 | Attributes

4.2.1 | Perceptions of the consequences of taking interpersonal risks

The concept analysis found that psychological safety captured perceptions of the consequences of interpersonal risk behaviours in the work environment. Interpersonal risk behaviour has often caused team members to be labelled ignorant, incompetent and disturbers in work environments, including behaviours such as asking questions, reporting errors and bringing up concerns (Edmondson, 2019). For example, MacCurtain et al. (2018) described psychological safety as

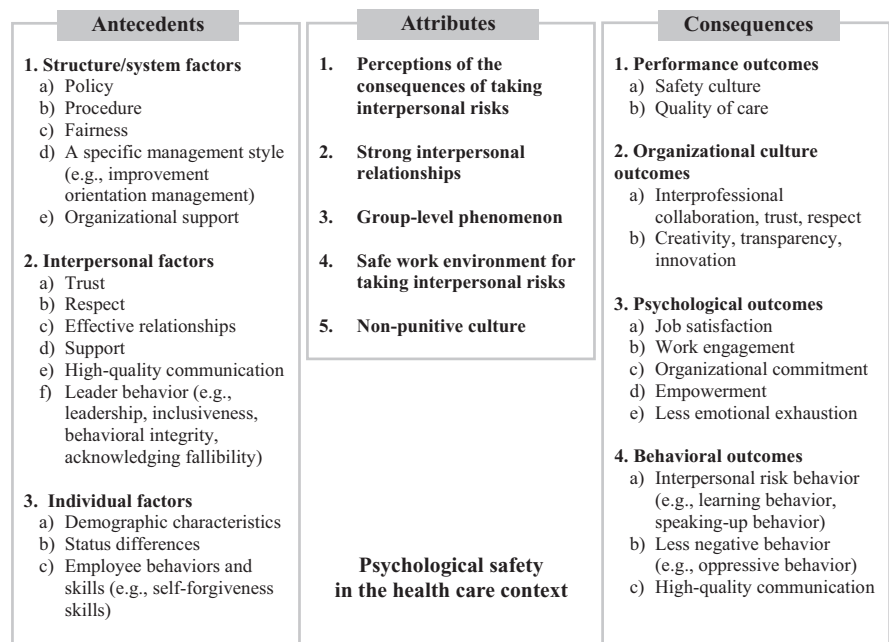


FIGURE 2 Conceptual model of psychological safety in the health care context

when employees feel safe voicing concerns and reporting problems and can trust their supervisor.

4.2.2 | Strong interpersonal relationships

This attribute included a description of strong interpersonal relationships, such as trust and respect. For example, Albritton et al. (2019) described that a high level of psychological safety reflected a team climate of interpersonal trust and mutual respect.

4.2.3 | Group-level phenomenon

This attribute suggested that psychological safety was a group-level phenomenon, although the first and second themes described psychological safety as an individual-level concept, including individuals' perceptions and feelings. Lee, Yang, and Chen (2016) described psychological safety as a shared belief among groups that facilitated the acceptability of behavioural risks.

4.2.4 | Safe work environment for taking interpersonal risks

The concept analysis found that psychological safety concerns in the work environment were linked to interpersonal risk behaviours. Noah and Steve (2012) stated that the organizational work environment includes systems, procedures, practices, values and philosophies. Singer et al. (2015) identified psychological safety as a cultivated environment safe for interpersonal risk-taking. Based on the definition of the work environment, the concept of psychological safety concerns the structure dimension in an organization that facilitates interpersonal risk.

4.2.5 | Non-punitive culture

Psychological safety was recognized as an organizational culture where team members were not punished or blamed even if they took interpersonal risks. According to previous studies, organizational culture is a wider concept than that of the work environment described in the previous category in this paper. Allaire and Firsirotu (1984) argued that organizational culture comprises three components: the structure of an organization; a cultural system including an organization's myths, ideology and values; and individual factors including employees' experiences, personalities and cognitions. Lee et al. (2016) stated that teams possessed a common belief and a non-punitive culture that accepted the risk of reporting behaviours when team members perceived psychological safety.

4.3 | Antecedents

4.3.1 | The structure/system factor

This theme included policy and procedures, fairness, organizational support and a specific management style. As an example of management style, Halbesleben and Rathert (2008) reported that an improvement orientation management style was a predictor of psychological safety.

4.3.2 | Interpersonal factors

Interpersonal factors were identified as antecedents of psychological safety, including trust, respect, effective relationships, support, high-quality communication and leader behaviour. Effective relationships involved interpersonal relationships among work teams, such as collegial teamwork and familiarity in the team. This analysis distinguishes support in this theme from organizational support described in the previous category. Support in this theme is particularly concerned with interpersonal support among team members in a work environment. Examples include support from leaders, team members and peers.

Additionally, high-quality communication fosters psychological safety. High-quality communication for psychological safety has the following features: frequent, open and honest communication.

Furthermore, this analysis found that leader behaviour was a prerequisite for psychological safety. Leader behaviour as an antecedent comprises leadership, inclusiveness, behavioural integrity and acknowledging employees' fallibility. Various types of leadership were positively related to psychological safety, although there were mixed results among the selected articles. For instance, transformational leadership predicted psychological safety (Raes et al., 2013). A leader's inclusiveness, described as a leader's words and deeds that invite and appreciate others' contributions (Nembhard & Edmondson, 2006), facilitated psychological safety. Furthermore, behavioural integrity, defined as the perception of alignment between a leader's words and deeds (Simons, 2002), promoted psychological safety.

4.3.3 | Individual factors

Individual factors included demographic characteristics, status differences and employees' behaviours and skills.

Demographic characteristics were associated with psychological safety. For example, age was negatively related to psychological safety (Buljac-Samadžić et al., 2018). Moreover, minorities perceive lower psychological safety than that of white employees (Derickson et al., 2015). Differences in status levels also influenced psychological safety. This analysis identified two types of status differences

as antecedents. First, there were status differences in disciplines; for example, residents generally had lower status than physicians. Residents' perceptions of power distance were related to psychological safety (Appelbaum et al., 2016). Second, status differences among disciplines were also antecedents. For instance, about psychological safety, physicians felt more than nurses, and nurses felt more than respiratory therapists in a neonatal intensive care unit (Nembhard & Edmondson, 2006).

Finally, employee behaviours and skills were identified as antecedents. Less incivility and more self-forgiveness skills were associated with greater feelings of psychological safety.

4.4 | Consequences

4.4.1 | Performance outcomes

Psychological safety influenced safety culture in a team and quality of care, including patient safety, effective rescue, patient-centred care, patient satisfaction and transition to professional practice.

4.4.2 | Organizational culture outcomes

This theme of consequences included dimensions of interpersonal relationships and the culture/work environment. The analysis revealed that psychological safety facilitated interpersonal relationships such as interprofessional collaboration, teamwork and trust. Additionally, psychological safety influenced the dimensions of culture and work environment in a healthcare organization. Creativity, transparency and innovation appeared in work environments with high psychological safety. Furthermore, psychological safety created a climate of organizational learning.

4.4.3 | Psychological outcomes

Psychological safety influenced healthcare providers' psychological outcomes. Specifically, psychological safety enhanced job satisfaction, work engagement, organizational commitment and empowerment and led to less emotional exhaustion and stress. Additionally, psychological safety encouraged healthcare providers to engage in quality improvement work.

4.4.4 | Behavioural outcomes

Finally, this analysis identified the dimensions of healthcare workers' behavioural outcomes as consequences of psychological safety.

A high level of psychological safety allows healthcare workers to engage in interpersonal risk behaviours. Interpersonal risk behaviours include learning behaviour, speaking-up behaviour, giving and seeking feedback, error-seeking behaviour, extra-role behaviour

and implementation of new practices. Learning behaviour allows a team to obtain and process data that facilitates a team to adapt and improve (Edmondson, 1999). Furthermore, psychological safety engendered speaking-up behaviour. Speaking-up behaviour was referred to as an open statement of views or opinions about workplace matters (Premeaux & Bedeian, 2003). Specifically, reporting errors, suggesting ideas, bringing up concerns, asking questions, asking for help and sharing knowledge were identified as positive outcomes of psychological safety in health care.

Furthermore, high-quality communication was built when healthcare providers felt psychological safety. In contrast, lack of psychological safety was associated with negative behaviours. For instance, the absence of psychological safety increased oppressive behaviour, disruptive behaviour, workarounds and bullying.

4.5 | Model case

A new graduate nurse makes a mistake. At first, she/he is afraid to report the mistake, but the fear eventually disappears.

The psychologically safe unit allows the graduate nurse to report the mistake to the nurse manager. The unit has a policy of fostering a culture that does not punish others for reporting errors. The manager in the unit has implemented this policy by her/his words and deeds to keep her/his integrity. Moreover, the new graduate nurses have received support from other nurses in the unit. The policy and supportive relationships help the new nurses feel safe in reporting errors in the unit. In addition, the unit with high psychological safety influences their psychological and performance dimension. The new graduate nurses could engage in their work in the psychologically safe unit and transition successfully into professional practice.

This exemplar demonstrates the attributes, antecedents and consequences of psychological safety in a healthcare team, with a high level of it identified in this concept analysis. It can help nurse managers and researchers understand the concept of psychological safety in a clinical situation.

5 | DISCUSSION

Our concept analysis identified the attributes, antecedents and consequences of psychological safety in a healthcare context. The concept of psychological safety is a multilevel phenomenon related to a unit culture that facilitates interpersonal risk behaviour. This study demonstrated that psychological safety in a healthcare work environment influenced proactive behaviours, such as asking questions, reporting errors and communicating openly. Additionally, psychological safety proved to be associated with strong interpersonal relationships and an effective culture that includes collaboration, trust and innovation, which ensure patient safety.

Many of the included articles were published in the past five years, suggesting that the concept of psychological safety in health care is still developing. More than half of the articles cited the

definition or measurement developed by Edmondson (1999). This finding suggests that Edmondson's work has been instrumental in stimulating research on psychological safety in the healthcare field. Mounting research has yielded attributes of psychological safety that are unique to health care and demonstrated that antecedents and consequences reflect the context (in this case, health care).

We found five themes related to attributes. The theme of a group-level phenomenon was considered an attribute specific to health care. This is in line with a previous study comparing the characteristics of healthcare and educational settings (Edmondson et al., 2016), which concluded that psychological safety as a group phenomenon was unique to the healthcare environment. In the educational context, differences in the perception of psychological safety existed between elementary and high schools. Centrally, in the healthcare context, differences in perception exist in a hospital; that is, there were differences between units, such as between surgical and medical units.

However, this analysis identified psychological safety as an individual-level phenomenon, including themes of the perception of interpersonal risk and strong interpersonal relationships. Therefore, our findings suggest that psychological safety has both group and individual dimensions. We considered this finding to be complementary rather than contradictory. The theory of organizational culture (Allaire & Firsirotu, 1984) explains this complex characteristic of psychological safety. According to this theory, organizational culture consists of interpretations of what members experience in the group; in other words, a feeling of psychological safety among members is a prerequisite for building a culture of psychological safety in teams.

We also identified three antecedent themes (structure/system factors, interpersonal factors and individual factors). Specifically, the findings suggest that the theme of status differences was a unique antecedent in the healthcare context. A systematic review (Newman et al., 2017) analysing articles without limitations on disciplines had similarly identified status differences as an antecedent. Notably, this study found two types of status differences in the context of health care—in a discipline and among disciplines. Moreover, our findings indicated that, to establish psychological safety in healthcare organizations, it is necessary to reduce status gaps both in and among disciplines.

Four themes were identified as consequences of psychological safety. The theme of implementing new practices reflected the contextual characteristics of health care. As diseases and evidence-based care evolve and new equipment and skills are periodically developed, healthcare providers must constantly try to implement new practices. Therefore, our results suggested that additional studies to examine the relationship between psychological safety and implementation of new practices are necessary to promote high performance in the healthcare environment. Furthermore, we found complex themes that were identified as both antecedents and consequences, including trust, interpersonal support and high-quality communication. This finding implied that some of the antecedents and consequences of psychological safety influenced each other.

Our concept analysis has implications for further research. First, we recommend that further research develop a measurement including specific items that reflect the context of health care. Many of the selected articles used the measurement developed by Edmondson (1999). This measurement captures psychological safety in the general context and is composed of a single factor. An additional measurement that captures psychological safety in the context of health care reflecting the attributes found in this study is needed to obtain detailed suggestions for nursing managers. Therefore, the themes of attributes, antecedents and consequences in this analysis may help develop a new measurement tool. New measurements could also facilitate empirical studies that would establish a team culture of psychological safety.

Second, we recommend examining whether psychological safety is affected by national culture. Only a few articles conducted in Eastern cultures were selected, although this analysis used both English and Japanese databases. Newman et al. (2017) stated that national culture influences psychological safety. For instance, team members in a work environment in Western cultures perceive more psychological safety than those in Eastern cultures, as Western cultures are generally characterized by a low level of collectivism; thus, speaking-up behaviour is considered to have minimal social cost. However, previous studies concluded that little is known about how psychological safety is influenced by differences in culture (Newman et al., 2017). Therefore, additional research in the healthcare field needs to be conducted in various countries to clarify cultural influences.

5.1 | Limitations

Two limitations to this concept analysis were identified. First, the inclusion criteria for articles may have resulted in bias: This analysis included articles that referred to 'psychological safety' in the abstract; moreover, we excluded grey literature or articles written in languages other than English and Japanese. Therefore, we could have missed relevant articles. Second, this analysis used the search term "psychological safety," which may have caused us to miss articles that expressed "psychological safety" using different terms. However, to minimize bias, we checked the surrogate terms of psychological safety and discussed the validity of the search term before conducting the search strategy.

5.2 | Conclusion

This study demonstrated that psychological safety in a healthcare work environment influences proactive behaviours such as asking questions, reporting errors and open communication. Additionally, psychological safety is associated with strong interpersonal relationships and an effective culture that includes collaboration, trust and innovation, which ensure patient safety.

In clinical environments, nurse managers serve an important role in cultivating a constructive work environment. Nurse managers'

roles include improving quality and performance and encouraging collaboration among interprofessional staff and nurses. Our findings offer insights to help nurse managers enhance psychological safety in the workplace. First, nurse managers can build a unit with psychological safety through a set of procedures while adopting consistency, bias-suppression, accuracy, correctability, representativeness and ethicality rules (Leventhal, 1980). Nurse managers consider these rules when making decisions, which allows them to achieve high-quality care through psychological safety.

Second, nurse managers can build interpersonal relationships with high psychological safety through leadership behaviours consisting of inclusiveness and/or high-quality communication. Specially, we recommend that nurse managers encourage staff nurses' contributions to their unit and openly and frequently communicate with nurses and interprofessional staff. Nurse managers can use these behaviours to establish psychologically safe relationships that allow staff nurses to ask questions and provide better care with interprofessional collaboration.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest associated with this manuscript.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Ayano Ito involved in design, data collection, analysis and interpretation of data, and drafting the manuscript. Kana Sato involved in design, data collection and drafting the manuscript. Yoshie Yumoto and Miki Sasaki involved in interpretation of data and drafting the manuscript. Yasuko Ogata involved in design, interpretation of data and drafting the manuscript.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are available in the Appendix of this article.

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APPENDIX

TABLE A1 List of included articles

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
1	Agius et al. (2008), United Kingdom	To explore primary educators' perceptions on modern process consultants at hospitals and the impacts of modernization on their roles	-	-	Organizational culture outcome— Effective work environment Psychological outcome— Engagement in improvement work
2	Albritton et al. (2019), Ghana	To analyse the relationships between psychological safety, learning behaviour and quality improvement implementation	Strong interpersonal relationship	-	Organizational culture outcome— Support, creativity Psychological outcome— Engagement in improvement work Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour
3	Alingh et al. (2019), Netherlands	To explore the relationships between specific management styles, safety climate, psychological safety and speaking-up behaviour	-	Structure/system factor— Commitment-based safety management Interpersonal factor— Leader behaviour	Behavioural outcome— Speaking-up behaviour, bringing up concerns, high-quality communication, learning behaviour
4	Appelbaum et al. (2018), United States	To establish the validity of two instruments that assess the learning environment perceptions in the clinical environment	-	-	Psychological outcome— Job satisfaction Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour
5	Appelbaum et al. (2016), United States	To explore relationships between power distance and inclusiveness on psychological safety and reporting behaviour	-	Structure/system factor— Policy, Procedure Interpersonal factor— Inclusiveness Individual factor— Status differences, less fear of being ignorant, incompetent, disruptive	Performance outcome— High patient safety Behavioural outcome— Reporting errors, intention to report adverse events
6	Arnetz et al. (2019), United States	To identify organizational determinants of bullying and the resulting work disengagement among nurses	Strong interpersonal relationship	-	Psychological outcome— Work engagement Behavioural outcome— Reporting adverse events, less bullying
7	Arnetz et al. (2019), United States	To examine associations between work environment, specific stress biomarkers and patient outcomes about the quality of nurse care	-	-	Organizational culture outcome— Effective work environment Psychological outcome— Work engagement, less stress Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, reporting errors, less bullying

(Continues)

TABLE A1 (Continued)

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
8	Baik and Zierler (2019), United States	To explore experiences and perceptions about team intervention, including the Team Strategies and Tool to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety (STEPPS) [®] training and the structured interdisciplinary bedside rounds (SIBR) process	-	-	Behavioural outcome— Bringing up concerns, asking questions, sharing information
9	Barling et al. (2018), Canada	To examine the effects of various leadership behaviours by surgeons on team performance	-	Interpersonal factor — Transformational leadership, coaching, less abusive supervision	Behavioural outcome— Implementation of new practices, bullying
10	Basit (2017), Malaysia	To examine the mediator roles of psychological safety and feelings of obligation between trust in supervisors and job engagement	Perceptions of the consequences of taking interpersonal risks	Interpersonal factor — Effective relationship, support from leader, trust (leader–member)	Psychological outcome— Work engagement, obligation feeling Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, asking questions
11	Bindels et al. (2018), Netherlands	To explore how physicians conceptualize and experience reflection in their professional practice	-	-	Performance outcome— high patient safety Psychological outcome— Engagement in improvement work Behavioural outcome— Speaking-up behaviour
12	Bradley et al. (2017), United States	To develop a scale for assessing organizational culture about efforts to reduce mortality in hospitals and assess the validity and reliability of the scale	Group-level phenomenon	-	-
13	Brown and McCormack (2011), Northern Ireland	To explore the factors that enhanced pain management practices for older people	-	-	Performance outcome — Person-centred care
14	Brown and McCormack (2016), Northern Ireland	To explore the facilitators that allowed the healthcare team to analyse their practice and enhance quality of care	-	Interpersonal factor — Effective relationship, leadership, support, respect	Organizational culture outcome— Effective work environment Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, less oppressive behaviour

(Continues)

TABLE A1 (Continued)

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
15	Buljac-Samardžić et al. (2018), Netherlands	To analyse the relationship between psychological safety, psychological detachment and patient safety	-	Individual factor— Gender, age	Organizational culture outcome— Support Psychological outcome— Work engagement, more psychological detachment Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, learning behaviour, speaking-up behaviour, sharing knowledge, reporting errors, feedback behaviour, extra-role behaviour
16	Carmeli and Zisu (2009), Israel	To explore the relationships between organizational trust, perceived organizational support, psychological safety and internal auditing	Group-level phenomenon	Structure/system factor— Support from organization Interpersonal factor— Trust	Psychological outcome— Engagement in improvement work Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, reporting errors, feedback behaviour
17	Clark et al. (2014), United States	To investigate the influence of role definition as moderator between safety climate and organizational citizenship behaviour among nurses	-	-	-
18	Colet et al. (2018), Saudi Arabia	To investigate nurses' perceptions of climate for preventing infections and explore its predictors	-	Individual factor— Nationality, clinical experience	-
19	Cuellar et al. (2018), United States	To investigate the influence of various practice ownerships on work environment, culture of learning behaviour, psychological safety and burnout	-	-	-
20	Curry et al. (2018), EU countries	To explore the influence of organizational culture and improve hospital performance on care by implementing an intervention	-	-	Organizational culture outcome— Effective work environment, supportive relationships, power-sharing Behavioural outcome— Speaking-up behaviour
21	Curşeu (2013), Netherlands	To explore the relationships between diversity in team, communication, trust, psychological safety and learning behaviour	-	Interpersonal factor— Frequency of communication	Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, speaking-up behaviour

(Continues)

TABLE A1 (Continued)

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
22	De Brún and McAuliffe (2020), Ireland	To theoretically understand the contextual conditions and mechanisms to promote collective leadership and the outcomes	-	Interpersonal factor— Frequency of communication, open communication	Performance outcome— Patient satisfaction, safety culture Organizational culture outcome— Effective teamwork, power-sharing, conflict management Psychological outcome— Job satisfaction, engagement in improvement work Behavioural outcome— Sharing knowledge
23	Derickson et al. (2015), United States	To explore the relationship between psychological safety and the willingness to report errors	-	Interpersonal factor— Inclusiveness Individual factor— Race, status difference	Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, learning behaviour, reporting errors
24	Edmondson et al. (2001), United States	To examine the relationship between psychological safety, collective learning and implementation of new routines	-	Interpersonal factor— Leader behaviour	Organizational culture outcome— Coordination Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, learning behaviour, implementation of new practices
25	Edmondson et al. (2016), United States	To compare and understand the characteristics of psychological safety in 26 healthcare and education organizations	Group-level phenomenon	Interpersonal factor— Inclusiveness, acknowledgement of mistakes and fallibility, acceptance, support from leader, respect Individual factor— Status difference	Psychological outcome— Engagement in improvement work Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, asking for help
26	Erichsen Andersson et al. (2018), Sweden	To examine the process of a knowledge translation intervention to improve hand hygiene and aseptic techniques	-	-	Psychological outcome – Engagement in improvement work Behavioural outcome – Learning behaviour, implementation of new practices, less disruptive behaviours

(Continues)

TABLE A1 (Continued)

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
27	George, Elwy et al. (2020), United States	To explore the relationship between the perceptions of organizational culture and adverse events	-	-	Performance outcome— Safety culture Psychological outcome— Work engagement Behavioural outcome— Bringing up concerns
28	George, Parker et al. (2020), United States	To describe and compare the approaches used to select safety priorities	-	-	Organizational culture outcome— Effective work environment Behavioural outcome— Bringing up concerns
29	Gilmartin et al. (2019), United States	To describe the intervention for quality improvement experience and evaluate the effectiveness	-	-	Behavioural outcome— Speaking-up behaviour, suggesting ideas
30	Gilmartin et al. (2018), United States	To explore the relationship between perceptions of psychological safety and reports of non-adherence to the central line insertion checklist at the unit level	-	-	Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, reporting errors, suggesting ideas
31	Gong et al. (2019), China	To explore the relationships between psychological safety, ethical leadership, feedback seeking and the effect of power distance	-	Interpersonal factor— Ethical leadership Individual factor— Power distance	Behavioural outcome— Feedback behaviour
32	Grant et al. (2014), United States	To measure emotional exhaustion, self-verification, psychological safety and external rapport in surveys before and after the interventions	-	Individual factor— Self-reflective titles	Psychological outcome— Less emotional exhaustion Behavioural outcome— Asking for help, expressing oneself
33	Greene et al. (2020), United States	To examine relationships between psychological safety and practices to prevent specific infections	-	-	Performance outcome— Patient safety, safety culture Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour
34	Halbesleben and Rathert (2008), United States	To examine the relationship between climate for continuous quality improvement, psychological safety and workarounds	Group-level phenomenon	Structure/system factor— Organizational/team structure, improvement orientation management, support from organization Interpersonal factor— High-quality communication, behavioural integrity, support from leader, trust (leader-member, member-member), respect	Performance outcome— Patient safety Behavioural outcome— Fewer workarounds

(Continues)

TABLE A1 (Continued)

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
35	Halbesleben et al. (2013), United States	To examine the relationships between psychological safety, behavioural integrity, safety compliance and occupational injuries	-	Interpersonal factor – Trust	Performance outcome – Safety culture Behavioural outcome – Learning behaviour, reporting behaviours
36	Hesselgreaves and MacVicar (2012), Scotland	To explore trainees' perspectives to understand the impact of practice-based small-group learning on curriculum needs, preparation for independent practice and facilitator learning	-	-	Behavioural outcome – Learning behaviour
37	Hirak et al. (2012), Israel	To analyse the relationship between leader inclusiveness, members' perceptions of psychological safety, learning from failures and unit performance	-	Structure/system factor – Support from organization Interpersonal factor – Inclusiveness, acknowledgement of mistakes and fallibility, accessibility to leader, openness	Behavioural outcome – Learning behaviour, suggesting ideas, bringing up concerns, expressing oneself
38	Huddleston and Gray (2016), United States	To explore nurses' perceptions of a healthy Work environment setting and define the characteristics of a healthy work environment	-	-	Behavioural outcome – Speaking-up behaviour
39	Jain et al. (2016), United States	To explore the role of psychological safety as a key factor to improve team communication	-	Structure/system factor – Geographic dispersion Interpersonal factor – Familiarity, leader behaviour, status difference	Organizational culture outcome – Collaboration, effective teamwork Behavioural outcome – Suggesting ideas, sharing knowledge, open communication
40	Kang et al. (2020), Unites States	To examine the relationships between employee engagement, patient satisfaction and various organizational culture characteristics, including psychological safety, fairness and innovation	Group-level phenomenon	Structure/system factor – Fairness	Performance outcome – Patient satisfaction Psychological outcome – Work engagement, positive emotion, empowerment
41	Keitz et al. (2019), United States	To examine the influence of clinical learning experiences on career choices and considerations about future employment	-	-	Psychological outcome – Job satisfaction, engagement in improvement work, less turnover intention Behavioural outcome Reporting errors
42	Kessel et al. (2012), German	To examine the impact of psychological safety on the process of sharing knowledge and creative performance in teams	Group-level phenomenon, strong interpersonal relationships	-	Psychological outcome – Engagement in improvement work Behavioural outcome – Interpersonal risk behaviour, learning behaviour, sharing knowledge, frequent communication

(Continues)

TABLE A1 (Continued)

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
43	Klingberg et al. (2018), Switzerland	To estimate the influence of incivility on psychological safety among physicians in an emergency department	-	Interpersonal factor— Less incivility	Organizational culture outcome— Innovation Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour
44	Kolbe et al. (2013), Switzerland	To develop a debriefing approach for simulation training and demonstrate its effectiveness	-	-	-
45	Lazzara et al. (2015), United States	To examine the effect of telemedicine on team attitudes, behaviours, cognitions and climates	-	-	-
46	Lee et al. (2016), United Kingdom, Taiwan	To examine the factors that allowed nurses to report incidents	Non-punitive culture, group-level phenomenon	-	Organizational culture outcome— Effective work environment Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, reporting incidents, intention to report incidents, suggesting ideas, intention to ask questions, intention to discuss incidents
47	Leroy et al. (2012), Belgium	To understand the influence of leader integrity on safety climate and patient safety outcomes	-	-	Behavioural outcome— Reporting errors
48	Lyman, Ethington et al. (2017), United States	To describe the process to reach excellent clinical performance in a team and examine the relationship between psychological safety and organizational learning	-	-	Organizational culture outcome— Support Psychological outcome — Engagement in improvement work Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, reporting hazardous situations
No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
49	Lyman, Shaw et al. (2017), United States	To discover new insights about organizational learning in hospital units	-	Interpersonal factor— Ethical leadership, change-oriented leadership, inclusiveness, trust (leader-member)	Psychological outcome — Engagement in improvement work Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour

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TABLE A1 (Continued)

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
50	Lyman et al. (2020), United States	To describe the experiences on psychological safety perceived by new graduate Registered Nurses	Group-level phenomenon	Structure/system factor— Spending time, supportive system Interpersonal factor— Effective relationship, support from leader, support from members, trust	Performance outcome— Transition to professional practice Organizational culture outcome— Effective work environment Psychological outcome— Work environment, commitment to patient safety Behavioural outcome— Speaking up about problems, sharing ideas
51	MacCurtain et al. (2018), Ireland	To examine the relationships between a bystander's perception of psychological safety and their response to witnessing bullying	Perceptions of the consequences of taking interpersonal risks, group-level phenomenon, strong interpersonal relationships	-	Behavioural outcome— Reporting problems, bringing up concerns, less bullying
52	Martland, et al. (2016), Australia	To explore the communication process between clinicians that facilitated the activation of rapid response teams	-	-	Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, speaking-up behaviour
53	MacCurtain et al. (2018), United States	To describe the experiences of psychological safety and explore the factors to build a psychological safety climate	-	-	-
54	Nembhard and Edmondson (2006), United States	To examine the relationship between professional status, leader inclusiveness, psychological safety in teams and engagement in quality improvement	Group-level phenomenon	Interpersonal factor— Leadership, inclusiveness Individual factor— Status differences among disciplines, experience year	Psychological outcome— Engagement in improvement work Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, implementation of new practices
55	O'Leary (2016) Ireland	To explore the influence of psychological safety on the development of interdisciplinary teams	Non-punitive culture	Interpersonal factor— Inclusiveness, acknowledgement of mistakes and fallibility, empowerment, respect	Organizational culture outcome— Collaboration, effective teamwork Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, asking questions, sharing knowledge, effective discussion

(Continues)

TABLE A1 (Continued)

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
56	Ortega et al. (2013), Spain	To examine the relationship between team learning and performance and team beliefs about the interpersonal context, including psychological safety, task interdependence and potency	Group-level phenomenon	-	Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, reporting errors
57	Pannick et al. (2017), United Kingdom	To examine the impact of an intervention for identifying clinical challenges and planning to resolve them	Perceptions of the consequences of taking interpersonal risks	-	Behavioural outcome— Speaking-up behaviour
58	Pogorzelska-Maziarz et al. (2016), United States	To examine the validity of a psychometric tool to measure the organizational climate and prevent infections	-	-	-
59	Prestia et al. (2017), United States	To describe nurses' experiences with moral distress	-	-	Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, speaking-up behaviour
60	Prottas and Nummelin (2018), United States	To explore the relationships between the perceptions of a manager's belief in Theory X or Y, psychological safety, organizational citizenship behaviour, quality of care, patient satisfaction and the employing entity	-	-	Organizational culture outcome— Creativity Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, sharing knowledge, organizational citizenship behaviour
61	Raes et al. (2013), Belgium	To explore when and how teams engage in team learning behaviours	-	Interpersonal factor— Leader behaviour, transformational leadership	Organizational culture outcome— Conflict management Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, learning behaviour
62	Rahmati and Poormirzaei (2018), Iran	To predict nurses' psychological safety by considering forgiveness dimensions	Perceptions of the consequences of taking interpersonal risks	Individual factor— Self-forgiveness	Psychological outcome— Forgiveness Behavioural outcome— Reporting errors, suggesting ideas

(Continues)

TABLE A1 (Continued)

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
63	Ramana Feeser et al. (2019), United States	To examine the relationship between organizational support and psychological safety and explore the factors associated with the perception of the learning environment	Group-level phenomenon	Individual factor— Status difference	Organizational culture outcome— Collaboration, creativity Psychological outcome— Engagement in improvement work, commitment, positive emotion Behavioural outcome— Suggesting ideas, asking for help. Feedback behaviour, admitting mistakes
64	Rathert et al. (2009), United States	To explore a theoretical framework of the work environment for continuous quality improvement and examine the relationships between the work environment, psychological safety, organizational commitment, engagement and patient safety	-	-	Performance outcome— Patient safety, patient-centred care Psychological outcome— Satisfaction, work engagement, engagement in improvement work, organizational commitment Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, fewer workarounds
65	Richard et al. (2017), Switzerland	To develop a questionnaire to assess speaking-up behaviour about patient safety	-	-	Psychological outcome— Engagement in learning Behavioural outcome— Speaking-up behaviour, bringing up concerns, feedback behaviour
66	Scheepers, et al. (2018), Netherlands	To investigate the relationship between perceptions of psychological safety and the feedback on performance received from peers	-	Interpersonal factor— Peer support, trust	Performance outcome— Safety culture Organizational culture outcome— Trust Psychological outcome— Job satisfaction, engagement in improvement work Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, reporting adverse events, bringing up concerns, sharing knowledge, feedback behaviour
67	Schulze et al. (2016), Switzerland	To develop and evaluate a training programme including an airway algorithm for pulmonologists using non-anaesthesiologist administered propofol sedation	Perceptions of the consequences of taking interpersonal risks	-	Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour

(Continues)

TABLE A1 (Continued)

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
68	Schwappach and Gehring (2015), United States	To examine the impact of practice ownership on the work environment, a climate of learning, psychological safety and burnout	-	-	-
69	Schwappach and Niederhauser (2019), Switzerland	To examine speaking-up-related behaviour and climate for the first time in psychiatric hospitals	-	-	Behavioural outcome— Speaking-up behaviour
70	Schwappach and Richard (2018), Switzerland	To examine the frequencies of speaking-up behaviours and the relationship between safety climate and speaking-up behaviours and withholding voice behaviours	-	-	Organizational culture outcome— Effective teamwork Behavioural outcome— Speaking-up behaviour
71	Schwappach et al. (2018), Austria	To examine the speaking-up behaviour and psychological safety as a safety climate	-	Individual factor— Status differences among disciplines	Behavioural outcome— Speaking-up behaviour
72	Shea et al. (2018), Australia	To examine the associations with workplace type, strategies for occupational violence and aggression, and support after incidents	-	-	Organizational culture outcome— Support
73	Sholomovich and Magnezi (2017), Israel	To examine the correlation between the psychological safety of an organization's nursing staff and its sense of personal responsibility for avoiding transmission of infections	-	Structure/system factor Support from organization Individual factor— Status differences among disciplines	Performance outcome— Safety culture Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, learning behaviour, implementation of new practices
74	Singer et al. (2015), United States	To examine the relationships between learning-oriented behaviours by managers and quality and safety performance in the interdisciplinary teams	Safe work environment for taking interpersonal risks	-	Organizational culture outcome— Effective work environment Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour
75	Smith et al. (2018), United States	To explore the impact of interpersonal and organizational factors on failure to rescue	-	-	Performance outcome— Effective rescue Behavioural outcome— Bringing up concerns e -
76	Stühlinger et al. (2019), Switzerland	To investigate the mechanisms between shared professional language, quality of care, and job satisfaction and examine the role of psychological safety and relational coordination as mediators	-	Interpersonal factor—Effective relationship, high-quality communication	Organizational culture outcome— Open atmosphere, conflict management Psychological outcome— Job satisfaction Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, speaking-up behaviour

(Continues)

TABLE A1 (Continued)

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
77	Swendiman et al. (2019), United States	To describe the personal qualities and teaching methods practised by effective surgical educators	Group-level phenomenon	-	Performance outcome— Patient safety Psychological outcome— Job satisfaction
78	Torraiba et al. (2016), United States	To explore the facilitators of psychological safety and the impact of psychological safety on satisfaction with the clinical learning environment	-	-	Psychological outcome— Job satisfaction
79	True et al. (2014), United States	To explore teamwork support factors and their impact on team-based task delegation	-	-	Behavioural outcome— High-quality communication
80	Tucker et al. (2007), United States	To examine the influence of best practice transfer, team learning and process change on the implementation of new practices	-	-	Psychological outcome— Job satisfaction, engagement in improvement work Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, less disruptive behaviours
81	Wakatsuki et al. (2018), United States	To describe residents' perceptions of behaviours by the best teachers	-	-	Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, asking questions
82	Wakeam et al. (2014), United States	To explore the influence of organizational factors, including psychological safety about failure to rescue	-	Structure/system factor— Constant team structure	Performance outcome— Effective rescue Behavioural outcome— High-quality communication
83	Wholey et al. (2014), United States	To examine the effect of leadership on interdependence, constructive climate, coordination and improvement initiatives	-	Interpersonal factor— Leadership, inclusiveness	Organizational culture outcome — Coordination Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour
84	Wilkins and London (2006), United States	To examine relationships between group climate (learning orientation, psychological safety and self-disclosure), process (feedback and conflict) and performance	Perceptions of the consequences of taking interpersonal risks, group-level phenomenon	-	Behavioural outcome— Learning behaviour, speaking-up behaviour, bringing up concerns, asking for help
85	Yanchus et al. (2014), United States	To explore employee's perceptions of communication and experiences of psychological safety in the clinical environment	Perceptions of the consequences of taking interpersonal risks	Interpersonal factor— Open communication, honest communication, trust (leader-member)	Behavioural outcome— Speaking-up behaviour, high-quality communication

(Continues)

TABLE A1 (Continued)

No.	Authors	Purposes of study	Attribute	Antecedent	Consequence
86	Yanchus et al. (2020), United States	To examine the workplace antecedents of engagement and disengagement and clarify the concepts of engagement and disengagement	-	Interpersonal factor— Effective relationship, teamwork	Organizational culture outcome— Effective interpersonal relationship Psychological outcome— Work engagement
87	Zhou et al. (2018), China	To explore the differences in perception of safety climate among different departments and job types	-	-	Behavioural outcome— Speaking-up behaviour
88	Zuber and Moody (2018), United States	To identify the conditions that allowed nurses to consider behaviours for innovation and change	-	-	Organizational culture outcome— Innovation Behavioural outcome— Interpersonal risk behaviour, speaking-up behaviour