

The essential role of leadership in developing a safety culture.

April 3, 2017

The essential role of leadership in developing a safety culture. Sentinel Event Alert. 2021;57(57):1-8.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/essential-role-leadership-developing-safety-culture>

[The Joint Commission](#) issues sentinel event alerts to highlight commonly reported, novel, or previously unrecognized safety concerns and make recommendations for how to address these critical safety issues. This alert emphasizes the link between [leadership](#) and a positive [safety culture](#). Leaders can model a [nonpunitive approach](#) to error reporting and investigation, and they should ensure that [unprofessional or intimidating behavior](#) is not tolerated. The alert recommends periodic measurement of safety culture using a validated tool such as the [AHRQ Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture](#) or the [Safety Attitudes Questionnaire](#). Safety assessments should then be used to inform [team training](#) and quality improvement efforts. A past [PSNet perspective](#) discussed the role of leadership in patient safety. This alert was originally published in 2017 and updated in 2021.