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Abstract

The UAE's healthcare journey, marked by steadfast commitment since 1971, showcases remarkable achievements in both public and private sectors. With authoritative regulation by agencies like DOH-Abu Dhabi and DHA, the sector integrates modern infrastructure and telemedicine. Despite challenges, near-miss reporting reinforces patient safety, reflecting global standards and bolstering the UAE's reputation for excellence. The study conducted in healthcare facilities across the UAE employed a descriptive research design to accurately depict near misses among healthcare professionals without influence. Surveys, interviews, and focus groups were used to gather data from a diverse sample of 308 professionals, aiming for representation across specialties and settings. Statistical tools including Frequency, Weighted Mean, ANOVA, and Ranking were utilized to analyze the collected data, identifying barriers and perceptions. Ethical standards, including informed consent and confidentiality, were strictly observed, with approval from an institutional review board. The research aimed to provide insights into near misses and contribute to enhancing patient safety within the UAE healthcare system. The study investigated healthcare professionals in the UAE, revealing significant findings. The profile analysis highlighted Abu Dhabi's dominance and the diverse composition of healthcare roles. Barriers to reporting near misses included fear of reprisal and lack of resources, with organizational culture playing a significant role. Demographic factors influenced perceptions, emphasizing tailored interventions. Despite challenges, near-miss reporting was generally encouraged and accessible, with strategies like fostering a safety culture and utilizing technology employed to address barriers. The conclusion of the study on healthcare professionals in the UAE highlights significant findings regarding the workforce's demographic profile, distribution, and barriers to reporting near misses. Insights into Abu Dhabi's dominance, diverse roles, and workforce disparities underscore the need for targeted interventions to ensure equitable healthcare access. Addressing barriers such as fear of reprisal and organizational culture is essential for promoting a positive reporting environment and

enhancing patient safety. Tailored strategies based on demographic and organizational factors are crucial for fostering a culture of transparency and continuous improvement within the UAE healthcare system. Furthermore, the positive perception of near-miss reporting underscores the commitment of healthcare organizations to prioritize patient safety and quality improvement efforts. By adopting coping strategies and best practices, healthcare professionals can contribute to preventing future incidents and enhancing patient care outcomes.

Keywords: barriers, near miss, healthcare professionals, patient safety, coping strategies, catastrophic harm

Study of near misses among health care professionals in United Arab Emirates: Towards a comprehensive strategy for quality health services

1. Background of the study

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has garnered global recognition for its unwavering commitment to achieving healthcare excellence. This commitment has been consistently evident since the establishment of the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) in 1971. Dedication is showcased through numerous achievements within a robust healthcare system that integrates both the public and private sectors. Regulatory agencies such as the Department of Health (DOH) in Abu Dhabi and the Dubai Health Authority (DHA) play pivotal roles in overseeing and guiding these sectors to ensure that they function synergistically to foster continuous advancement and innovation in healthcare. Delving into the UAE's healthcare landscape reveals a multitude of initiatives driving its progress. Mandatory health insurance and substantial investments in modern infrastructure highlight the nation's proactive approach to ensuring accessible and high-quality care for its residents. Additionally, integrating telemedicine and other technological advancements signifies the UAE's commitment to adopting cutting-edge solutions that enhance healthcare delivery, aligning with global best practices (Alrawahi et al., 2020). Despite these significant improvements, the UAE healthcare system faces ongoing challenges. Demographic transitions and healthcare inequities necessitate flexible and innovative solutions. Patient safety, mainly through the practice of near-miss reporting is a critical aspect that needs to be addressed. According to World Health Organization and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI, 2020); near-miss reporting is a proactive strategy to prevent harm within healthcare systems. This practice cultivates a culture of transparency, accountability, and continuous learning through reporting incidents that nearly resulted in adverse outcomes. In the UAE, near-miss reporting is integral in strengthening patient safety frameworks, demonstrating a commitment to global standards and a proactive approach to risk mitigation. As the UAE aims to position itself as a leading destination for medical tourism, the adoption of near-miss reporting not only bolsters its reputation for excellence but also instills confidence among patients and stakeholders globally. This approach signifies a progressive leap towards superior healthcare quality management and underscores the nation's unwavering dedication to the well-being of both its citizens and international visitors.

This study focuses on exploring the occurrence of near misses in healthcare professionals in the UAE. Understanding near misses is essential for several reasons. It provides crucial knowledge about the status of healthcare quality and safety procedures in the UAE, highlighting areas that need improvement. Additionally, it enables healthcare institutions to develop targeted strategies for preventing and mitigating such incidents. The primary goal of this study is to elevate the standard of healthcare in the UAE, thereby creating a safer environment for both patients and healthcare practitioners. If near misses are proactively addressed, the UAE healthcare system can make substantial progress toward ensuring the highest levels of patient care and safety nationwide. Event management companies are crucial in organizing and executing various events, from small-scale gatherings to large-scale conferences and festivals. With the increasing focus on sustainability in business operations, it is essential to understand the factors affecting event management companies' sustainability. Its sustainability has become a critical aspect of the modern business landscape. As the events industry continues to grow and evolve, event management companies must adopt sustainable practices to ensure long-term success and minimize their environmental impact. This dissertation aims to explore the various factors that influence the sustainability of event management companies and how these factors can form the basis for developing a comprehensive Business Operation Sustainability Plan. By examining key elements such as environmental stewardship, social responsibility, economic viability, and stakeholder engagement, this study can provide valuable insights into creating a sustainable framework for event management companies.

Research Objectives - This study aims to determine the barriers encountered and the coping strategies

employed by healthcare professionals in the UAE in reporting near misses resulting in catastrophic harm. Specifically, it seeks to: Determine the profile of the health-care professionals in the UAE in terms of location, staff category, age group, gender, educational background, years of experience, specialty areas, and hospital settings; to identify barriers to reporting near misses among health-care professionals in the UAE in terms of fear of reprisal, lack of time and resources, organizational culture, safety culture, leadership impact, learning culture, and perception of near-miss severity; to test the significant difference between the barriers encountered by the health professionals in UAE in reporting near-miss cases resulting in catastrophic harm when the respondents are grouped according to profile variables; to assess health-care professionals' perceptions of the encouragement and accessibility of near-miss reporting within their organizations; and to determine the coping strategies and best practices healthcare professionals employ to address the barriers to reporting near-misses resulting in catastrophic harm.

This study will determine the barriers encountered and coping strategies by healthcare professionals in the UAE in reporting near-misses resulting in catastrophic harm. Specifically, it will seek answers to the following questions (1) What are the demographic attributes or profiles of the healthcare professionals in the UAE in terms of location, staff category, age group, gender, educational background, years of experience, specialty areas, and hospital settings; (2) What do the healthcare professionals encounter as barriers in reporting near misses resulting in catastrophic harm in terms of fear of reprisal, lack of time and resources, organizational culture, safety culture, leadership impact, learning culture, and perception of near-miss severity; (3) Is there a significant difference between the barriers encountered by health professionals in UAE in reporting near-miss cases resulting in catastrophic harm when the respondents are grouped according to profile variables?; (4) How do encouragement and accessibility assess healthcare professionals & perceptions of near-miss reporting within their organizations?; and (5) Based on the findings, what coping strategies and best practices do healthcare professionals employ to address the barriers to reporting near misses, resulting in catastrophic harm?





Figure 1. Unified Reason's Swiss Cheese Model and Health Belief Model

The study will adopt the unified Reason's Swiss Cheese Model and Health Belief Model by integrating the key components of both models. While these models originate from different domains, a combined representation can illustrate how they might intersect.

Reason's Swiss Cheese Model

The Swiss Cheese Model, conceptualized by Professor James Reason for risk analysis, illustrates how layers of defense with weaknesses can lead to errors. Levinson (2020) discussed contemporary trends in patient safety and quality, including the application and evolution of models such as the Swiss Cheese Model. Schiff et al. (2021) explored new methodologies for error prevention in healthcare, critiquing and extending traditional

models like the Swiss Cheese Model. Dekker (2020) critically examined the limitations and criticisms of the model, addressing challenges like hindsight bias. Hollnage et al. (2020) saw parallels between safety practices in healthcare and aviation, focusing on shared challenges and strategies for improving safety in both fields. Hendrich et al. (2021) explored how aviation safety practices can be adapted to healthcare settings, highlighting insights through comparing error patterns across industries.

Identifying the Holes in the System Leading to Near Misses

Reason's foundational work introduces "latent conditions," underlying system weaknesses contributing to errors and near misses. Dutton et al. (2022) evaluated recent insights into systemic vulnerabilities and near-miss events in cardiac surgery. O'Leary et al. (2021) focused on recent advancements in near miss reporting systems and their role in uncovering latent conditions within healthcare settings. Dekker (2020) provided a comprehensive overview of recent developments in understanding human error and systemic factors. Morrison et al. (2022) examined recent strategies and insights into preventing adverse events in emergency departments, addressing systemic issues like those identified by Spath and Grigg. Cook et al. (2023) discussed contemporary approaches to understanding and learning from errors, reflecting the evolution of frameworks for managing latent conditions and preventing future incidents.

Understanding How Barriers Contribute to the Breakdown in Reporting

Klein et al. (2023) examined current attitudes and barriers to incident reporting across multiple hospitals, providing updated insights into the challenges and potential improvements in reporting systems. Weiner et al. (2022) had qualitative examination of error disclosure among nurses in long-term care settings, reflecting recent changes in organizational culture and disclosure practices. Gaba et al. (2021) revisited the improvement paradox and explores contemporary strategies for overcoming barriers to effectively implementing and sustaining safety interventions Gordon et al. (2022) highlighted recent advancements in understanding and addressing barriers to reporting medical injuries, building on earlier work by Layde et al. while Dekker (2020) discussed recent developments in safety reporting systems, focusing on the trade-offs involved and how they are being addressed in modern practices. Bergs et al. (2021) investigated the complex barriers to adherence to surgical safety checklists, providing updated insights into the challenges and solutions for improving compliance with safety protocols.

Health Belief Model

The Health Belief Model (HBM) is a psychological framework that seeks to explain and predict individuals' health-related behaviors. Developed in the 1950s by social psychologists Hochbaum, Rosenstock, and Kegels, the model is based on the premise that people's beliefs about health problems, perceived benefits of action, and barriers to action influence their decisions to take preventive health measures. The Health Belief Model has been widely used to understand and promote health-related behaviors such as vaccination, cancer screening, and other preventive measures. It helps health educators and practitioners in designing interventions that address individuals' perceptions, beliefs, and attitudes, with the aim of promoting positive health behaviors. However, critics argued that the model may oversimplify the complexities of health decision-making and may not account for other factors influencing behavior, such as social and environmental factors.

Perceived Severity and Susceptibility to Near-Miss Events

Goguen et al. (2022) built on Peters et al.'s work by exploring the latest developments in how emotions influence risk perception and proposes updated frameworks for integrating emotional and rational assessments. Fischhoff et al. (2021) revisited Slovic's Affect Heuristic and examined how intuitive and emotional factors shape risk perception and communication, offering insights into contemporary applications of the Affect Heuristic. Boholm et al. (2021) provided an updated exploration of the risk perception paradox, emphasizing the complex interplay of cognitive, emotional, and social factors in natural hazards and calling for nuanced risk

communication strategies. McCright et al. (2023) examined how emotions and cultural contexts influence risk communication and management, reflecting a participatory and culturally sensitive approach to addressing risks.

Perceived Benefits and Barriers to Reporting

Zhang et al. (2021) reviewed recent findings on the perceived benefits of reporting medical errors, focusing on how a positive safety culture can enhance learning from mistakes and improve patient safety. Wang et al. (2022) evaluated the benefits of reporting medication errors, including the role of educational interventions in improving patient safety and accountability. Hoff et al. (2023) identified and discussed contemporary barriers to incident reporting, including issues of blame and fear of consequences, and provided updated recommendations for overcoming these barriers. Harris et al. (2022) examined the barriers specific to nursing professionals, highlighting issues such as fear, lack of support, and concerns about professional reputation. Green et al. (2021) focused on the barriers to incident reporting in emergency departments, addressing issues such as time constraints, Fear, and organizational culture.

2. Methods

Research Environment - The research environment for this study primarily encompasses healthcare facilities and institutions across the United Arab Emirates (UAE). These include hospitals, ambulatory care (both government and private), which cater to the diverse healthcare needs of the population. The UAE boasts a sophisticated healthcare infrastructure, with modern facilities and a highly skilled workforce, making it an ideal setting for conducting research on near misses among healthcare professionals. Furthermore, engaging with healthcare professionals including physicians, nurses, allied health professionals and administrative staff will be essential for data collection and understanding the nuances of near misses within the UAE healthcare context. Surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions were conducted within these healthcare settings to gather insights and perspectives from frontline practitioners.

Research Design - Descriptive research design was adopted by the study to describe the characteristics of the sample and the area of interest, discover new meaning, describe the aspects of the situation as it naturally occurs, and discover relationships among selected variables, thus, provides the answers to questions according to ongoing events of the present accurately and systematically. The goal is to describe a phenomenon and its characteristics, employing survey tools in the gathering of data. It is designed to gather information regarding the present condition and situation relative to the subject under investigation. Quantitative research method was used in the study to quantify the opinions and perceptions of the respondents and generalize results from the sample. A survey method was used, utilizing survey questionnaire as the primary data gathering instrument. Kim et al. (2022) discussed how survey research can be employed to gather detailed demographic and personal information from sample populations, enhancing the understanding of various characteristics. As the form of quantitative research, the survey method was used in the gathering of information from the selected respondents to understand respondents' opinions. Survey research is social scientific research focusing on people, their beliefs, vital facts, opinions, behavior, attitudes, and motivations. It is the collection of information from sample of respondents through their responses to questions which encompasses the use of designed questionnaire to measure the characteristics of the population utilizing statistical methods. With the help of the widely used Likert scale, respondents can rate how much they agree or disagree with a statement.

Research Respondents - The research respondents for this study were primarily consisted of healthcare professionals working in various capacities within healthcare facilities across the United Arab Emirates (UAE). These professionals may include physicians, nurses, allied health professionals and administrative staff involved in patient care delivery. Additionally, stakeholders such as healthcare administrators such as quality and patient safety, patient experience, counselors, and others may also be included as respondents to provide insights into organizational factors and policy implications related to near misses. Sampling aims to achieve diversity in terms of specialty areas, educational background, experience level, hospital setting (e.g., hospitals, ambulatory care,

etc.), and others to ensure a comprehensive understanding of near misses across different contexts within the UAE healthcare system. The selection of respondents prioritized those directly involved in patient care delivery, as they possess firsthand knowledge and experiences related to near misses. Overall, the research respondents constitute a diverse group of healthcare professionals and stakeholders, whose perspectives and experiences will inform the investigation into near misses and contribute to the development of strategies for enhancing patient safety in the UAE healthcare system.

Research Statistical Tools - The collected data was consolidated, analyzed, and presented in tables. The following statistical tools were used: Frequency and Percentage. This determined the number of the respondents. Construction of the frequency distribution organizes the data into meaningful form to form a trend and the emerging data can easily be seen. *Percentage* expresses the relative frequency of respondents' responses. *Weighted Mean/Average* - this identified the barriers to reporting near misses. This was also used to assess the perceptions of the encouragement and accessibility of near misses' cases. *Mean* is the measure of central tendency used to represent the entire value of the distribution. It is a central tendency measure identifying a single value to represent an entire distribution, providing an accurate description of the entire data (Lee et al., 2022). *ANOVA (F-Test)* - this determined significant differences in the respondents' assessment on the barriers to reporting near misses when the respondents are grouped according to profile. ANOVA involves partitioning the total variance observed in the data into different components attributed to various sources. *Ranking* - this was used to identify the degree of identification based on the given dimensions. Ranking is a method commonly used to assess the relative importance or degree of identification attributed to different dimensions or criteria within a given context.

Data Management - Diverse samples of healthcare professionals across various disciplines, including physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, and administrative staff were considered in the selection criteria for the respondents of this research study. In quantitative research, determining an appropriate sample size is essential for ensuring the accuracy and dependability of the results. Following the rule of thumb for the minimum sample size, a minimum of 30 participants is required to ensure adequate statistical power and reduce the risk of Type II errors. However, it is essential to note that this method may only be appropriate for some studies, as variables such as the research design, the research question, and the effect size can influence the required sample size. While the minimum sample size of 30 can be used as a starting point for this study, a larger sample size may be targeted to increase the generalizability of the findings and permit subgroup analyses. As previously stated, this can be accomplished using a sampling formula that considers population size, desired level of precision, and estimated response rate. For this study, a total of 308 healthcare professionals will be selected as respondents. This sample size has been determined to ensure adequate representation across various specialties, experience levels, and healthcare settings within the United Arab Emirates (UAE) healthcare system.

Data Gathering Procedure - An electronically constructed survey conducted through Microsoft Forms, which was designed as an online platform to facilitate ease of participation and submission of results for the respondents was given to healthcare professionals across various disciplines, including physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, and administrative staff to collect the data for this study. To gather quantitative information on the variables of interest such as barriers to reporting near misses among healthcare professionals in the UAE in terms of fear of reprisal, lack of time and resources and organizational culture such as safety culture, leadership impact, learning culture and perception of near miss severity, a closed-ended questions was used. Also, semi-structured guides were developed based on qualitative research methods (Morgan et al., 2022) to explore nuanced barriers through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to further interpret the results.

The researcher used a standardized survey questionnaire adapted from validated instruments like the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (Jones et al., 2022) to deal with the various issues covered in this study. The data gathering instrument is specifically designed to address the problems identified in the study. Likert Scale Self-made Questionnaire was used in the collection of data from the above-mentioned participants. It was used since it is essential in measuring respondent's opinion or attitude towards the given subject. The Likert Scale

Questionnaire is designed to answer the questions indicated in the statement of the problem and developed following the sequencing of the statement of the problem, to ensure that the problems of the study are addressed in the conduct of the research analysis. The questionnaire is composed of a list of close-ended questions for which the respondents can give their answers and questionnaire link will be distributed through digital platforms such as Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp Messenger, LinkedIn and respondents' email addresses. No paper-based surveys will be utilized for data collection. Furthermore, to gain a deeper understanding of individuals' experiences, perceptions, and attitudes an in-depth interview (IDIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) will be used. In-depth interviews involve one-on-one interactions between the researcher and the participant. Typically, interviews are open-ended and allow for a detailed exploration of the participant's perspective while Focus group discussions involves a small group of participants (typically 6-10) engaging in a guided discussion facilitated by a moderator/ researcher. Participants interacted with each other, sharing their perspectives on a given topic.

Data Analysis - To simplify the necessary statistical calculations, computer software was used. Microsoft Excel was used for data management while the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) facilitated the analysis of the data. An appropriate coding system was designed to enable the gathered data to fit into the computer software application.

Ethical Considerations - The study adhered to ethical standards outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki, ensuring voluntary participation, informed consent, and protection of participants' confidentiality. The research protocol was submitted to the institutional review board for approval. The researcher considered "Informed Consent" as the cornerstone of ethical research in which study participants had been fully informed of the questions t asked to them, how research data will be used, and the potential consequences of the conduct of the research. Study participants who took part in the study, understood their rights for information access and their right to withdraw at any point. The process of informed consent was considered in this study as the contract between the respondents of the study and the researcher. An informed Consent form was provided to the researcher's intent, data to be collected and how they will be collected, and the commitment level required for participants, how data will be reported and used, and the potential risks in taking part of the research. The researcher assured that the identity of the participants will be kept confidential. Confidentiality and anonymity were observed to protect the study participants from potential harm. Ethical issues of informed consent, confidentiality, risk of harm, conflict of interest, and anonymity were presented with a plan on how the issues can be managed to encourage, inform, and enable further research (O'Connor et al., 2023).

3. Results and discussion

Table 1 shows the profile of the healthcare professionals in the UAE in terms of location, staff category, age group, gender, educational attainment, and years of experience, specialty area and hospital setting. Findings show that most of the study participants are from the Abu Dhabi Emirates with a total of 95 respondents or 30.8 percent. This is followed by the lower group of respondents from the emirates of Ras Al Khaimah with 33 respondents or 10.7 percent of the total number of participants. The distribution of healthcare professionals across the various emirates of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a crucial aspect of understanding the healthcare landscape within the nation. Analyzing demographic profiles, especially in terms of location, reveals patterns and trends that significantly influence healthcare provision and access, as highlighted in Table 1.

Abu Dhabi, being the capital and largest emirate of the UAE, naturally emerges as a central hub for healthcare professionals, accommodating a substantial portion of the workforce. Several factors contribute to Abu Dhabi's prominence as a healthcare destination, including the presence of renowned medical institutions, robust healthcare policies and investments, attractive remuneration packages, and avenues for career advancement (Saeed et al., 2023). Collectively, these factors enhance Abu Dhabi's appeal as a preferred location for healthcare professionals to reside and practice.

Table 1

Educutional Atlatiment, Tears of Experience, specially Ar	eu, mospiiui seiting.	D
Emirates	Frequency	Percentage
Ajman	48	15.6
Abu Dhabi	95	30.8
Dubai	37	12.0
Fujairah	57	18.5
Ras Al Khaimah	33	10.7
Sharjah	38	12.3
Staff Category		
Administration	72	23.4
Physician	57	18.5
Allied health professionals	24	7.8
Nursing	139	45.1
Others	16	5.2
Age Group	10	5.2
18 to 24 years ald	2	6
25 to 24 years old	2 00	.0
25 to 54 years old	90	29.2 AF F
55 to 44 years old	140	45.5
45 to 54 years old	49	15.9
55 years old & above	27	8.8
Gender	100	
Male	133	43.2
Female	175	56.8
Educational Attainment		
High school Diploma / GED	7	2.3
Associate's Degree	5	1.6
Bachelor's Degree	159	51.6
Master's Degree	85	27.6
Doctoral Degree	42	13.6
Others	10	3.2
Years of Experience		
Less than 1 year	3	1.0
1 to 5 years	50	16.2
6 to 10 years	68	22.1
11 to 15 years	96	31.2
16 to 20 years	14	1/ 3
More then 20 years	47 17	15.2
Specialty Area	4/	15.5
Specially Alea	20	9.4
Emergency Department/ Orgent Care	20	8.4
Operating Theatre	11	3.0
Labor and Delivery	9	2.9
Intensive Care Unit	17	5.5
Critical Care Unit	27	8.8
Neonatal/ Pediatric Intensive Care	12	3.9
In Patient	43	14.0
Outpatient	51	16.6
Clinical Services	12	3.9
Long Term Care	17	5.5
Home Care	12	3.9
Rehabilitation	9	2.9
Long Term Ventilated Unit	11	3.6
Dialysis	1	.3
Day Surgery Unit	8	2.6
Others	42	13.6
Hospital Setting		
Government Hospital	78	25.3
Private Hospital	223	72.4
Others	7	2.3
Total	308	100.0

Profile of the Healthcare Professionals in the UAE in Terms of Location, Staff Category, Age Group, Gender, Educational Attainment, Years of Experience, Specialty Area, Hospital Setting.

In terms of staff category, most respondents comprising 45.1 percent of the total, identified themselves under the category of Nursing with 139 respondents, encompassing roles such as Charge Nurse, Infection Control Officer, Nursing Educator, Patient Aide, and Assistant Nurse. Following closely, the Administration

category, with 72 or 23.4 percent of respondents, includes professionals holding positions such as Director, Chief Operating Officer, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Chief Nursing Officer, Service Line Administrator, and Medical Director. Physicians with 57, comprising 18.5 percent of respondents, play a central role in the healthcare ecosystem, including Specialists, Consultants, and General Practitioners. The allied health professionals' category, with 24 or 7.8 percent of respondents, includes diverse professionals such as Dentists, Dieticians, Optometrists, Pharmacists, Phlebotomists, Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Sonographers, and Speech Therapists. Lastly, the category of Others with 16, comprising 5.2 percent of respondents, encompasses various non-clinical roles essential for healthcare delivery, including Admission and Billing Executives, Biomedical Engineers, Call Centre Executives, Electricians, Drivers, IT Coordinators, Medical Transcriptionists, Messenger Porters, and Ushers.

Moreover, the largest group of respondents falls within the age range of 35 to 44 years old, comprising 140 respondents, which accounts for 45.5 percent of the total participants. This suggests that individuals in their mid-thirties to mid-forties are most actively engaged demographic in the survey. The second most significant group consists of healthcare professionals aged 25 to 34 years old, with 90 respondents, making up 29.2 percent of the total. This indicates a considerable representation of younger healthcare professionals who are likely to have an early or mid-career. Moreover, the age bracket of 45 to 54 years old comprises 49 respondents, representing 15.9 percent of the total participants. This group, although smaller, still represents a significant portion of the survey population, indicating engagement from individuals in their late forties to early fifties. Respondents aged 55 years and above account for 27 individuals, constituting 8.8 percent of the total respondents. While this group is smaller, their inclusion provides valuable perspectives from more experienced individuals within the healthcare profession. The smallest group consists of respondents aged 18 to 24 years old, with only 2 participants, representing a mere 0.6 percent of the total. This suggests limited engagement from younger individuals, possibly due to factors such as career stage or relevance to the survey topic.

Findings show the importance of understanding how contextual factors and age of employees affect their willingness and interest in research participation, to tailor organizational strategies for research study participation accordingly in aiming to maximize engagement of employees. Employees in the different age groups can have varied perceptions of the impact and relevance of research study participation, such as the higher level of motivation on younger employees, as the research outcomes can have great impact on the performance of their jobs and have immediate relevance on their roles in job areas (Chen et al., 2023). Priority is given to research participation by older employees with those studies that are aligned to their long-term goals for career or as they perceive that the research studies have broader impact on the organization (Robinson et al., 2023).

Furthermore, for gender distribution, findings show that majority of the research participants are female, with 175 respondents, equivalent to 56.8 percent while the smaller group has 12 male respondents or 21.8 percent. The over representation of female participants, as indicated by the findings, underscores broader societal dynamics influencing survey participation. Research has shown that gender differences in survey response rates can be attributed to various factors beyond social connectedness and civic engagement. One contributing factor is the role of gender norms and expectations. Studies suggest that women may feel more socially obligated to participate in surveys due to cultural norms emphasizing nurturing and communal behavior (Barker et al., 2023). Moreover, disparities in access to and utilization of technology can also influence gender differences in survey participation. Addressing gender disparities in survey participation requires a multifaceted approach.

In terms of educational attainment, the distribution of respondents according to educational attainment provides valuable insights into the academic background of the survey participants. The prevalence of bachelor's degree graduates, comprising 51.6 percent of respondents, suggests a strong representation of individuals with undergraduate education. This finding aligns with trends indicating the increasing importance of higher education in professional fields. Furthermore, the significant presence of healthcare professionals with master's degrees, accounting for 27.6 percent of respondents, reflects the advanced qualifications often sought in

healthcare roles. The pursuit of master's degrees among healthcare professionals may indicate a commitment to specialized training and professional development within the field. Additionally, the presence of respondents with doctoral degrees, constituting 13.6 percent of participants, underscores the expertise and advanced knowledge contributed by individuals with terminal academic qualifications. Their inclusion enriches the survey data with insights from experienced professionals and scholars within the healthcare domain. The smaller groups of respondents with high school diplomas/GEDs and associate degrees, comprising 2.3 percent and 1.6 percent respectively, highlight the diversity of educational backgrounds among survey participants. While less represented, their perspectives offer valuable insights into the experiences and perspectives of individuals with varying levels of formal education within the healthcare sector. Lastly, the presence of respondents with other attained degrees not mentioned in the survey, representing 3.2 percent of participants, suggests a degree of diversity beyond the predefined categories. Exploring the educational backgrounds of these respondents further could uncover unique perspectives and qualifications contributing to the breadth of insights gathered from the survey. Influencing healthcare professionals' participation in research studies can include other factors such as time constraints, workload, personal motivation, and leadership support, which can play significant roles (Adams et al., 2021).

Besides, most respondents comprising 31.2 percent of the total reported have served their respective organizations for 11 to 15 years. Following closely, 22.1 percent of respondents reported have 6 to 10 years of experience within their organizations. Additionally, 16.2 percent of respondents reported have 1 to 5 years of service, indicating a significant presence of early-career professionals within the surveyed population. Furthermore, 14.3 percent of respondents reported have 16 to 20 years of experience, while 15.3 percent have more than 20 years of service within their organizations. Lastly, the smallest group, comprising 1.0 percent of respondents, reported having less than 1 year of experience within their organizations.

Table 2

Barriers to Reporting Near Misses Among Healthcare Professionals in The UAE in Terms of Fear of Reprisal				
Fear of Reprisal	WM	VI	Rank	
1. I am concerned that reporting near misses could have negative consequences for me.	2.2760	Disagree	3	
2. I feel apprehensive about reporting near misses due to potential blame or punishment.	2.2922	Disagree	2	
3. I worry that reporting near misses might lead to negative perceptions of my competence.	2.2435	Disagree	5	
4. I perceive a culture of fear surrounding near-miss reporting in my workplace.	2.3607	Disagree	1	
5. I fear that reporting near misses may have adverse effects on my professional reputation.	2.2345	Disagree	6	
6. I hesitate to report near misses because I fear retaliation from colleagues or superiors.	2.1851	Disagree	10	
7. I feel pressured to withhold information about near misses to avoid negative consequences.	2.1857	Disagree	9	
8. I believe that reporting near misses could lead to personal repercussions in my workplace.	2.2727	Disagree	4	
9. I am anxious about the potential repercussions of reporting near misses on my career advancement.	2.2117	Disagree	8	
10. I perceive a lack of support from management when it comes to near miss reporting.	2.2255	Disagree	7	
Composite Mean	2.2429	Disagree		
Lagand 4:00 2 50 Strength Agnost 2 40 2 51 Agnost 2 50 1 50 Disagnost 1 40 1 00 Streng	ah. Diagon			

Legend: 4:00-3.50- Strongly Agree; 3.49-2.51- Agree; 2.50-1.50- Disagree; 1.49-1.00- Strongly Disagree

Table 2 shows the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses among Healthcare Professionals in The UAE in Terms of Fear of Reprisal. The composite mean of 2.2429, interpreted as "disagree," suggests that respondents do not perceive fear of reprisal as a significant barrier to reporting near misses among healthcare professionals in the UAE. Specifically, the respondents generally "disagree" with the following top three statements: "I perceive a culture of fear surrounding near-miss reporting in my workplace", "I feel apprehensive about reporting near misses due to potential blame or punishment", and "I am concerned that reporting near misses could have negative consequences for me" with a mean of 2.3607, 2.2922, and 2.2760 respectively. These statement suggest that employees do not perceive a pervasive culture of fear regarding reporting near misses. This perception is crucial because it indicates that employees feel relatively comfortable reporting near misses without fear of reprisal or negative consequences. This finding is significant as it indicates a positive perception of organizational culture or policies regarding reporting within the healthcare system. In environments where there is a perceived risk of punishment or negative consequences for reporting errors or near misses, healthcare

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professionals may hesitate to report incidents, leading to under reporting and potentially compromising patient safety. However, the result contradicts this expectation, indicating that healthcare professionals in the UAE do not view fear of reprisal as a major impediment to reporting near misses. This could be attributed to several factors within the UAE's healthcare system and organizational culture. One possible explanation is the presence of supportive reporting mechanisms and a culture of safety within healthcare institutions in the UAE. In such environments, healthcare workers may feel more confident in reporting near misses, knowing that their concerns will be addressed constructively rather than met with punishment. Cultural factors may also play a role in shaping perceptions of fear of reprisal within the UAE's healthcare context. Thus, the finding suggests that fear of reprisal is not perceived as a significant barrier to reporting mechanisms, leadership support, and cultural factors promoting trust and transparency within the healthcare system. However, further research is needed to explore the underlying factors influencing reporting behaviors and perceptions of fear of reprisal within the UAE's healthcare system. However, further research is needed to explore the underlying factors influencing reporting behaviors and perceptions of fear of reprisal within the UAE's healthcare system. However, further research is needed to explore the underlying factors influencing reporting behaviors and perceptions of fear of reprisal within the UAE's healthcare system.

Table 3

Barriers to Reporting Near Misses Among Healthcare Professionals in The UAE in Terms of Lack of Time and Resources

Lack of Time and Resources	WM	VI	Rank
1. I often feel overwhelmed with my workload, making it challenging to report near misses.	2.4951	Disagree	4
2. I do not have sufficient time to complete near-miss reporting documentation.	2.3464	Disagree	8
3. Limited availability of reporting tools and resources hinders my ability to report near misses effectively.	2.2951	Disagree	10
4. Prioritizing tasks and over-reporting near misses are standard in my work environment.	2.5921	Agree	2
5. Insufficient staffing levels contribute to challenges in timely near-miss reporting.	2.7516	Agree	1
6. I struggle to find dedicated time for near miss reporting amidst my daily responsibilities.	2.4901	Disagree	5
7. The workload in my workplace leaves little room for near miss reporting activities.	2.5380	Agree	3
8. I often feel rushed and pressured to complete other tasks, leaving little time for near-miss reporting.	2.4852	Disagree	7
9. The lack of 16istrative support makes documenting and reporting near misses challenging.	2.4852	Disagree	7
10. My organization does not allocate sufficient resources to support near-miss reporting initiatives.	2.3366	Disagree	9
Composite Mean	2.4558	Disagree	
	D.		

Legend: 4:00-3.50- Strongly Agree; 3.49-2.51- Agree; 2.50-1.50- Disagree; 1.49-1.00- Strongly Disagree

Table 3 shows the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses Among Healthcare Professionals in the UAE in Terms of Lack of Time and Resources. The composite mean of 2.4558, interpreted as "disagree," suggests that respondents do not perceive lack of time and resources as significant barriers to reporting near misses among healthcare professionals in the UAE. Conversely, the respondents generally "agree" with the following top three statements: "Insufficient staffing levels contribute to challenges in timely near-miss reporting" with mean of 2.7516, "Prioritizing tasks and over-reporting near misses are standard in my work environment", with mean 2.5921 and "The workload in my workplace leaves little room for near miss reporting activities" with mean 2.5380. This finding is intriguing and may reflect various factors influencing reporting behaviors within the healthcare system. In settings where healthcare providers are often pressed for time and resources are scarce, reporting may be deprioritized in favor of immediate patient care needs. However, the result contradicts this expectation, indicating that healthcare professionals in the UAE do not view lack of time and resources as major impediments to reporting near misses.

One possible explanation for this finding is the presence of supportive organizational structures and reporting mechanisms within healthcare institutions in the UAE. Additionally, cultural factors may play a role in shaping perceptions of time and resource constraints in the context of reporting near misses. The UAE's healthcare system may prioritize patient safety and quality improvement initiatives, allocating resources and implementing measures to facilitate reporting despite potential time constraints. While the result indicates a positive perception regarding lack of time and resources as barriers to reporting near misses, it is essential to interpret this finding cautiously. Contextual factors specific to the UAE's healthcare system and organizational culture may have influenced respondents' perceptions. Future research could explore these factors in greater

depth to gain a comprehensive understanding of reporting behaviors and barriers within the UAE healthcare context. Thus, the findings suggest that lack of time and resources is not perceived as a significant barrier to reporting near misses among healthcare professionals in the UAE. This may reflect the presence of supportive organizational structures, efficient reporting mechanisms, and cultural values prioritizing patient safety and quality improvement initiatives within the healthcare system. However, further research is needed to explore the underlying factors influencing reporting behaviors and perceptions of barriers within the UAE healthcare context.

Table 4

Barriers to Reporting Near Misses Among Healthcare Professionals in The UAE in Terms of Organizational Culture

Organizational Culture	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Ranking
Safety Culture	3.3201	Agree	1
Leadership Impact	3.2205	Agree	3
Learning Culture	3.2591	Agree	2
Grand Mean	3.2666	Agree	

Legend: 4:00-3.50- Strongly Agree; 3.49-2.51- Agree; 2.50-1.50- Disagree; 1.49-1.00- Strongly Disagree

Table 4 shows the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses among Healthcare Professionals in The UAE in Terms of Organizational Culture. The grand mean of 3.2666, interpreted as "agree," indicates that respondents consider organizational culture, including safety culture, leadership impact, and learning culture, to be potential barriers to reporting near misses among healthcare professionals in the UAE. This finding highlights the importance of organizational factors in shaping reporting behaviors and underscores the need for targeted interventions to address cultural barriers to reporting.

A positive safety culture, characterized by open communication, trust, and psychological safety, encourages healthcare professionals to report near misses and safety incidents without fear of blame or reprisal. However, the finding suggests that respondents perceive aspects of organizational culture, such as safety culture, leadership impact, and learning culture, as potential barriers to reporting near misses. In environments where leadership fails to prioritize safety, where there is a lack of support for reporting efforts, or where there is a culture of blame and punishment, healthcare professionals may be reluctant to report near misses. Furthermore, the presence of a learning culture within healthcare organizations is essential for promoting continuous improvement and learning from errors. The perception of organizational culture as a barrier to reporting near misses underscores the need for healthcare organizations in the UAE to prioritize cultural transformation and promote a positive reporting culture.

Table 5

Barriers to Reporting Near Misses Among Healthcare Professionals in The UAE in Terms of Safety Culture

Safety Culture	WM	VI	Rank
1. Safety is a top priority in my organization.	3.5592	SA	1
2. 16 professionals in my organization feel comfortable reporting safety concerns.	3.2908	Α	8
3. There is a culture of open communication regarding safety issues in my workplace.	3.2599	Α	10
4. Near-miss reporting is actively encouraged to improve patient safety.	3.4131	Α	2
5. Staff are empowered to speak up about safety risks without fear of reprisal.	3.2843	Α	9
6. Safety protocols and procedures are consistently followed in my organization.	3.3518	Α	5
7. There is a shared understanding of the importance of safety among all staff members.	3.3257	Α	6
8. My organization provides regular training on safety procedures and protocols.	3.3059	А	7
9. Staff are encouraged to participate actively in safety improvement initiatives.	3.3574	Α	4
10. Safety incidents are thoroughly investigated, and corrective actions are taken to prevent	3.3583	А	3
recurrence.	0.0000		
Composite Mean	3.3201	Α	

Legend: 4:00-3.50- Strongly Agree; 3.49-2.51- Agree; 2.50-1.50- Disagree; 1.49-1.00- Strongly Disagree

The composite mean of 3.3201, indicating agreement, suggests that the respondents perceive the safety culture as a potential barrier to reporting near misses among healthcare professionals in the UAE. This finding aligns with existing study found that while the intent to report near misses was high, the actual reporting was low. Thus, the perception of safety culture as a barrier to reporting near misses is a significant issue in healthcare.

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Addressing this requires a multifaceted approach, including fostering a culture of openness, improving departmental organization, and ensuring that healthcare professionals do not fear punitive measures for reporting near misses.

Table 6

Barriers to Reporting Near Misses Among Healthcare Professionals in the UAE in Terms of Leadership Impact					
Leadership Impact	WM	VI	Rank		
1. Leadership in my organization demonstrates a commitment to patient safety.	3.3475	Agree	1		
2. Leaders actively engage with staff to address safety concerns and promote a safety culture.	3.2980	Agree	2		
3. Leaders are visible and approachable regarding safety matters in my workplace.	3.2885	Agree	3		
4. Leadership fosters an environment where staff feel comfortable raising safety issues.	3.2442	Agree	8		
5. Leaders provide resources and support to improve patient safety initiatives.	3.2656	Agree	5		
6. Leadership communicates clear expectations regarding safety performance.	3.2712	Agree	4		
7. Leaders actively participate in safety committees and initiatives.	3.2451	Agree	7		
8. Leadership holds themselves accountable for safety outcomes within the organization.	3.2020	Agree	10		
9. Leaders recognize and celebrate successes 7 safety improvement efforts.	3.2607	Agree	6		
10. Leadership actively seeks feedback from staff to identify areas for improvement in patient safety.	3.2046	Agree	9		
Composite Mean	3.2205	Agree			

Legend: 4:00-3.50- Strongly Agree; 3.49-2.51- Agree; 2.50-1.50- Disagree; 1.49-1.00- Strongly Disagree

Table 6 shows the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses among Healthcare Professionals in the UAE in terms of Leadership Impact. The result indicates that the respondents, likely healthcare professionals in the UAE, generally agree, as indicated by a composite mean of 3.2205 that leadership impact can be a barrier to reporting near misses. This result suggests that the organizational culture and leadership style within healthcare settings may influence reporting behaviors among staff. When leadership fails to prioritize or support the reporting of near misses, it can create an environment where employees feel hesitant or discouraged from disclosing incidents that could potentially lead to patient harm.

Several factors could contribute to this perception. Firstly, if leadership emphasizes punitive measures or blame rather than fostering a culture of learning and improvement, employees may fear reprisal for reporting near misses. Additionally, if leaders do not allocate sufficient resources or time for reporting and analysis of near misses, staff may perceive reporting as a low priority task, further inhibiting their willingness to participate. Moreover, ineffective communication channels between frontline staff and leadership can also hinder reporting, as employees may feel disconnected from decision-making processes or lack confidence that their reports will be taken seriously.

Table 7

Barriers to Reporting Near Misses Among Healthcare Professionals in The UAE in Terms of Learning Culture					
Learning Culture	WM	VI	Rank		
1. My organization encourages continuous learning and improvement 7 safety.	3.4318	Agree	1		
2. Staff are encouraged to discuss and learn from safety incidents and near misses openly.	3.2745	Agree	6		
3. There are opportunities for ongoing education and training related to patient safety.	3.3180	Agree	2		
4. Lessons learned from safety events are shared and incorporated into practice improvements.	3.2787	Agree	5		
5. My organization promotes a culture of inquiry and curiosity regarding patient safety.	3.2516	Agree	8		
6. Staff are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification regarding safety procedures.	3.2829	Agree	4		
7. Near misses are viewed as opportunities for learning and system improvement.	3.2974	Agree	3		
8. There is a culture of accountability for learning from mistakes and preventing recurrence.	3.2630	Agree	7		
9. Staff are empowered to suggest and implement changes to improve patient safety.	3.2098	Agree	10		
10. My organization actively seeks input from staff to identify areas for learning and improvement 7 safety.	3.2270	Agree	9		
Composite Mean	3.2591	Agree			

Legend: 4:00-3.50- Strongly Agree; 3.49-2.51- Agree; 2.50-1.50- Disagree; 1.49-1.00- Strongly Disagree

Table 7 shows the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses among Healthcare Professionals in The UAE in Terms of Learning Culture. The composite mean of 3.2591, interpreted as "agree" on a Likert scale, indicates that respondents perceive a learning culture as a potential barrier to reporting near misses among healthcare professionals in the UAE. This finding suggests that there may be deficiencies in the organizational culture surrounding learning and improvement from near miss events, which could hinder the reporting process. A

learning culture within healthcare organizations is essential for fostering an environment where near misses are viewed as opportunities for improvement rather than occasions for blame or punishment. When a learning culture is lacking, healthcare professionals may feel discouraged from reporting near misses due to fears of repercussions or concerns that their reports will not lead to meaningful changes or improvements in patient safety practices.

Table 8

Barriers to Reporting Near Misses Among Healthcare Professionals in The UAE in Terms of Perception of Near Miss Severity

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Perception of Near Miss Severity	WM	VI	Rank
1. I believe that near misses are significant events that warrant reporting.	3.4610	Agree	2
2. Near misses are taken seriously by my organization.	3.2955	Agree	7
3. Near misses are perceived as potential indicators of underlying systemic issues in my workplace.	3.3247	Agree	6
4. I am confident in my ability to assess the severity of near misses accurately.	3.4351	Agree	4
5. Near misses are viewed as opportunities for improvement 7 safety practices.	3.4513	Agree	3
6. I consider near misses to be events that could have significantly harmed patients if left unaddressed.	3.4838	Agree	1
7. My organization has clear criteria for determining the severity of near misses.	3.2630	Agree	10
8. There is a shared understanding among 16 professionals about the potential consequences of near misses.	3.2922	Agree	8
9. Near misses are discussed in detail to understand their potential impact on patient safety.	3.2662	Agree	9
10. I feel comfortable reporting near misses that I perceive significant severity.	3.3604	Agree	5
Composite Mean	3.3633	Agree	

Legend: 4:00-3.50- Strongly Agree; 3.49-2.51- Agree; 2.50-1.50- Disagree; 1.49-1.00- Strongly Disagree

Table 8 shows the Barriers Reporting Near Misses among Healthcare Professionals in The UAE in Terms of Perception of Near Miss Severity. The composite mean of 3.3633, interpreted verbally as "agree," suggests that respondents generally perceive near miss severity as a potential barrier to reporting among healthcare professionals in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This finding aligns with the broader understanding that the perception of severity can influence reporting behavior in various contexts, including healthcare settings. In healthcare, near misses refer to events or situations that have the potential to cause harm but are intercepted before reaching the patient. Understanding the severity of near misses is crucial for improving patient safety and preventing future incidents. However, if healthcare professionals perceive these near misses as less severe or insignificant, they may be less inclined to report them, leading to a lack of crucial data for preventive measures. Several studies support the idea that perception of severity affects reporting behavior. For instance, Reason et al. (2021) found that healthcare professionals were less likely to report near misses if they perceived them as inconsequential or not serious. Similarly, Leape et al. (2020) highlighted the importance of recognizing near misses as valuable learning opportunities, emphasizing that the perception of severity influences reporting and subsequent organizational learning. In the context of the UAE, cultural factors and organizational dynamics may also play a role in shaping perceptions of near miss severity and reporting behavior among healthcare professionals.

Table 9

Summary	Table of	f Barriers	to Rep	porting	Near	Misses
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Items	WM	Rank	VI
Fear of Reprisal	2.2429	4	Disagree
Lack of Time and Resources	2.4558	3	Disagree
Organizational Culture	3.2666	2	Agree
Perception of Near Misses Severity	3.3633	1	Agree
Grand Mean	2.8317		Agree

Legend: 4:00-3.50- Strongly Agree; 3.49-2.51- Agree; 2.50-1.50- Disagree; 1.49-1.00- Strongly Disagree

Table 9 shows the Summary Table of Barriers to Reporting Near Misses in terms of Fear of Reprisal, Lack of Time and Resources, Organizational Culture and Perception of Near Misses Severity. The grand mean of 2.8317 interpreted verbally as "agree," suggests that respondents generally perceive that Fear of Reprisal, Lack of Time and Resources, Organizational Culture and Perception of Near Misses Severity as a potential barrier to

reporting among healthcare professionals in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Fear of reprisal such as punishment or blame, is a significant barrier to reporting near misses in healthcare settings.

Table 10

Significant Difference in the Ba	erriers to Reporting N	lear Misses When C	Grouped A	ccording to l	location
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Items	F- value	p-value	Decision on H ₀	V.I
Fear of Reprisal	.923	.466	Accept H ₀	Not Significant
Lack of Time and Resources	.874	.499	Accept H ₀	Not Significant
Organizational Culture	4.058	.001*	Reject H ₀	Significant
Perception of Near Miss Severity	1.113	.258	Accept H ₀	Not Significant

Legend: **criteria for rejection* p<.05

Table 10 shows the Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Location. There was no statistically significant difference on the barriers reporting to near misses in terms of fear of reprisal, lack of time and resources, and perception of near miss severity when grouped according to location as determined by one-way ANOVA (p-value = .466, p-value = .499, p-value = .258) except for organizational culture which has p-value equal to .001 which lead to the rejection of null hypothesis which mean that there was a statistically significant difference on the respondents' assessment when they are grouped according to location. This means that healthcare professionals from the emirates of Abu Dhabi may vary on their assessment from those in the Fujairah and the rest of other emirates. This suggests that healthcare professionals from different emirates may have distinct views on near misses, particularly influenced by organizational culture.

One possible explanation for this finding could be the cultural diversity and organizational structures within healthcare systems across different regions. Furthermore, the significant difference in organizational culture aligns with the broader literature on the impact of organizational factors on patient safety outcomes.

Table 11

Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Staff Category

	1 0		1	
Items	F- value	p-value	Decision on H ₀	V.I
Fear of Reprisal	3.609	.007*	Reject H ₀	Significant
Lack of Time and Resources	1.339	.255	Accept H ₀	Not Significant
Organizational Culture	2.225	.066	Accept H ₀	Not Significant
Perception of Near Miss Severity	1.093	.360	Accept H ₀	Not Significant

Legend: **criteria for rejection* p<.05

Table 11 shows the Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Staff Category. There was no statistically significant difference on the barriers reporting to near misses in terms of lack of time and resources, organizational culture and perception of near miss severity when grouped according to staff category as determined by one-way ANOVA (p-value = .255, p-value = .066, p-value = .360) except for fear of reprisal which has p-value equal to .007 which lead to the rejection of null hypothesis which mean that there was a statistically significant difference on the respondents' assessment of when they are grouped according to staff category.

This finding suggests that different categories of staff may perceive fear of reprisal differently, which could have implications for their willingness to report near misses. It highlights the importance of understanding and addressing concerns related to fear of reprisal to facilitate effective near-miss reporting across all staff categories. Several studies have examined the relationship between staff categories and fear of reprisal in reporting near misses. One such study by Sorra et al. (2022) analyzed data from the AHRQ Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture and found that nursing staff may have higher levels of fear of reprisal compared to other staff categories. This could be due to various factors such as hierarchical structures within healthcare organizations and concerns about potential consequences for reporting errors or near misses.

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Significant Difference on the Barriers	s to Reporting I	Near Misses Wh	ien Grouped Accordin	ig to Age Group
Items	F- value	p-value	Decision on H ₀	V.I
Fear of Reprisal	5.252	.000*	Reject H ₀	Significant
Lack of Time and Resources	7.280	.000*	Reject H ₀	Significant
Organizational Culture	1.066	.373	Accept H ₀	Not Significant
Perception of Near Miss Severity	1.348	.252	Accept H ₀	Not Significant

Significant Difference on	the Barriers to	Reporting Near	Misses When	Grouned A	According to	Age Group

Legend: **criteria for rejection* p < .05

Table 12 shows the Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Age Group. There was no statistically significant difference on the barriers reporting to near misses in terms of organizational culture and perception of near miss severity when grouped according to age group as determined by one-way ANOVA (p-value = .373, p-value = .252) except for fear of reprisal and lack of time and resources with p-value equal to .000, leading to the rejection of null hypothesis which mean that there was a statistically significant difference on the respondents' assessment when they are grouped according to age group.

This finding suggests that different age groups may perceive fear of reprisal and lack of time and resources differently, which could influence their willingness to report near misses. It underscores the importance of understanding and addressing these concerns across different age groups to facilitate effective near-miss reporting.

Table 13

Table 12

Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Gender

	1 1 1				
Items	t- value	p-value	Decision on H ₀	V.I	
Fear of Reprisal	1.209	.228	Accept H ₀	Not Significant	
Lack of Time and Resources	1.307	.192	Accept H ₀	Not Significant	
Organizational Culture	394	.694	Accept H ₀	Not Significant	
Perception of Near Miss Severity	.898	.370	Accept H ₀	Not Significant	
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Legend: criteria for rejection p < .05

Table 13 shows the Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Gender. There was no statistically significant difference on the barriers reporting to near misses in terms of fear of reprisal, lack of time and resources, organizational culture and perception of near miss severity when grouped according to gender as determined by one-way ANOVA which leads to the failure of rejecting the null hypothesis with p-value equal to .228, .192, .694, and .370 respectively. This finding suggests that gender does not significantly influence healthcare professionals' perceptions of barriers to reporting near misses. It implies that both male and female healthcare professionals may face similar challenges and concerns when it comes to reporting near misses in healthcare settings.

Table 14

Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Educational Background

Items	t- value	p-value	Decision on H ₀	V.I
Fear of Reprisal	5.565	.000*	Reject H ₀	Significant
Lack of Time and Resources	3.302	.006*	Reject H ₀	Significant
Organizational Culture	2.729	.020*	Reject H ₀	Significant
Perception of Near Miss Severity	3.048	.011*	Reject H ₀	Significant

Legend: criteria for rejection p < .05

Table 14 shows the Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Educational Background. There was a statistically significant difference on the barriers reporting to near misses in terms of fear of reprisal, lack of time and resources, organizational culture and perception of near miss severity when grouped according to educational background as determined by one-way ANOVA which has p-value equal to .000, .006, .020, and .011, respectively, which lead to the rejection of null hypothesis which mean that there was a statistically significant difference on the respondents' assessment when they are grouped according to their educational background. This implies that healthcare professionals with different educational backgrounds may perceive barriers to reporting near misses differently. Education level could influence factors such as communication skills, knowledge of patient safety principles, and awareness of reporting systems, which in turn may impact perceptions of barriers to reporting near misses.

Table 15

Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Years of Experience

$=$ \cdot _{T} \cdot				
Items	t- value	p-value	Decision on H ₀	V.I
Fear of Reprisal	5.414	.000*	Reject H ₀	Significant
Lack of Time and Resources	4.632	.000*	Reject H ₀	Significant
Organizational Culture	2.286	.046*	Reject H ₀	Significant
Perception of Near Miss Severity	.959	.443	Accept H ₀	Not Significant

Legend: *criteria for rejection p<.05

Table 15 shows the Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Years of Experience. There was a statistically significant difference on the barriers reporting to near misses in terms of fear of reprisal, lack of time and resources, and organizational culture when grouped according to years of experience as determined by one-way ANOVA which has p-value equal to .000, .000, and .046, respectively, which lead to the rejection of null hypothesis which mean that there was a statistically significant difference on the respondents' assessment when they are grouped according to years of experience. However, there was no statistically significant difference in terms of their assessment on perception of near miss severity with p-value greater at .443. This finding suggests that healthcare professionals with different levels of experience may perceive certain barriers to reporting near misses differently. Factors such as familiarity with reporting systems, confidence in reporting procedures, and past experiences may influence perceptions of barriers to reporting near misses. However, there was no statistically significant difference in terms of perception of near miss severity based on years of experience, with a p-value of .443. This suggests that regardless of experience level, healthcare professionals may perceive near miss severity similarly. One possible explanation for this finding could be that near -miss events are generally perceived as serious regardless of one's experience level in healthcare. Near misses represent potential errors that could have resulted in harm to patients but were intercepted before causing harm. Healthcare professionals, regardless of their level of experience, are likely to recognize the seriousness of these events and perceive them similarly in terms of severity

Table 16

Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Specialty Areas

Items	t- value	p-value	Decision on H ₀	V.I
Fear of Reprisal	1.408	.142	Accept H ₀	Not Significant
Lack of Time and Resources	1.254	.231	Accept H ₀	Not Significant
Organizational Culture	.986	.470	Accept H ₀	Not Significant
Perception of Near Miss Severity	.422	.972	Accept H ₀	Not Significant

Legend: criteria for rejection p<.05

Table 16 shows the Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Specialty Areas. The result suggests that when grouped according to specialty areas, there was no statistically significant difference in the barriers to reporting near misses, including fear of reprisal, lack of time and resources, organizational culture, and perception of near miss severity. The p-values obtained from the one-way ANOVA analysis for each barrier were .142, .231, .470, and .972, respectively, leading to the failure of rejecting the null hypothesis. This finding implies that healthcare professionals across different specialty areas may perceive similar challenges and concerns when it comes to reporting near misses in healthcare settings. It suggests that factors such as fear of reprisal, resource constraints, organizational culture, and perception of near miss severity may not vary significantly based on specialty area.

Table 17

Significant Difference on the Darriers to Reporting frear misses when Grouped freedoung to frespirat Setting					
Items	t- value	p-value	Decision on H ₀	V.I	
Fear of Reprisal	1.199	.303	Accept H ₀	Not Significant	
Lack of Time and Resources	.052	.950	Accept H ₀	Not Significant	
Organizational Culture	.154	.857	Accept H ₀	Not Significant	
Perception of Near Miss Severity	.623	.537	Accept H ₀	Not Significant	

Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Hospital Setting

Legend: criteria for rejection p<.05

Table 17 shows the Significant Difference on the Barriers to Reporting Near Misses When Grouped According to Hospital Setting. The findings reveal that when categorized according to hospital setting, there was no statistically significant discrepancy in the perceived barriers to reporting near misses, encompassing fear of reprisal, scarcity of time and resources, organizational culture, and perception of near miss severity. The p-values derived from the one-way ANOVA analysis for each barrier were .303, .950, .857, and .537, respectively, failing to reject the null hypothesis. This suggests that healthcare professionals across diverse hospital settings share similar apprehensions and challenges when it comes to reporting near misses. Factors such as fear of reprisal, resource limitations, organizational culture, and the perceived severity of near misses do not exhibit substantial variations based on the type of hospital setting.

Table 18

Perceptions of Healthcare Professionals on Encouragement and Accessibility of Near Misses Reporting

WM	VI	Rank
3.3180	Agree	1
3.2211	Agree	5
3.2039	Agree	6
3.2623	Agree	3
3.1881	Agree	7
3.1096	Agree	9
3.0066	Agree	10
3.2508	Agree	4
3.1623	Agree	8
3.2673	Agree	2
3.1474	Agree	
	WM 3.3180 3.2211 3.2039 3.2623 3.1881 3.1096 3.0066 3.2508 3.1623 3.2673 3.1474	WM VI 3.3180 Agree 3.2211 Agree 3.2039 Agree 3.2623 Agree 3.1881 Agree 3.1096 Agree 3.0066 Agree 3.1623 Agree 3.1623 Agree 3.1623 Agree 3.1623 Agree 3.1623 Agree 3.1474 Agree

Legend: 4:00-3.50- Strongly Agree; 3.49-2.51- Agree; 2.50-1.50- Disagree 1.49-1.00- Strongly Disagree

Table 18 shows the Perceptions of Healthcare Professionals on Encouragement and Accessibility of near Misses Reporting. The composite mean of 3.1474, interpreted verbally as "agree," suggests that respondents generally perceive there is encouragement and accessibility of near miss reporting among healthcare professionals in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This finding indicates a positive trend toward fostering a culture of reporting within the UAE healthcare system. The perception of encouragement for near miss reporting among healthcare professionals is crucial for promoting a culture of safety and continuous improvement in patient care. Research by Pronovost et al. (2022) emphasizes the importance of leadership support and encouragement in creating a safe environment where reporting errors and near misses are encouraged rather than punished. In the UAE context, organizational initiatives, leadership behaviors, and educational programs may play a significant role in encouraging healthcare professionals to report near misses.

The perceived accessibility of near- miss reporting systems is essential for ensuring that healthcare professionals can easily report incidents and contribute to improving patient safety. Studies by Al-Shafaee et al. (2020) highlight the importance of user-friendly reporting systems and clear reporting procedures in enhancing the accessibility of reporting mechanisms. A positive perception of encouragement and accessibility of near miss reporting has significant implications for patient safety and quality improvement efforts in the UAE healthcare system. By encouraging healthcare professionals to report near misses, organizations can identify system weaknesses, implement corrective actions, and prevent adverse events from occurring in the future. Furthermore,

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accessible reporting systems enable healthcare professionals at all levels to contribute valuable insights and observations, leading to a more comprehensive understanding of safety risks and opportunities for improvement.

Table 19

Coping Strategic Plan

Key Result Areas	Objectives	Plan / Strategies	Persons Involved	Expected Output
Organizational Culture •Safety Culture	1. Increased Awareness	-Conduct patient safety culture workshops. -Information sharing and knowledge transfer on the reported and analyzed trends. -Implement safety talks in workplaces by sharing of best and evidence-based practices.	 Organization Leadership Quality and Patient Safety Department Medical Affairs Nursing Department Clinical Affairs Department Human Resource (Training and Development) 	 -Improved understanding of the importance of reporting -Increased reporting rates of near misses - Established culture of learning
	2. Foster Open Communication	-Establish anonymous reporting channels -Provide feedback to employees following the loop closure -Conduct regular safety meetings with the nominated patient safety champions while involving the leadership.	 Organization Leadership Quality and Patient Safety Department Medical Affairs Nursing Department Clinical Affairs Department Human Resource (Training and Development) 	 -Encouraged participation in reporting, which will lead to open communication and transparency - Increased trust in reporting system - Improved proactive reporting of near misses that are more likely to cause catastrophic harm
	3. Provide Incentive	 Recognition for reporting near misses through the implementation of patient safety programs such as the Good Catch Program. Rewards for proactive safety behaviors. Acknowledgement in the annual performance review and development. 	 Organization Leadership Quality and Patient Safety Department Medical Affairs Nursing Department Clinical Affairs Department Human Resource (Training and Development) 	 Increased staff morale as they are empowered to report and share observations around near misses Strengthened workforce culture which leads to effective organizational culture
Organizational Culture •Leadership Impact	1. Leadership Active Involvement and Engagement	 Involve and engage leaders in developing or implementing patient safety programs, projects, and activities. Ongoing monitoring of leadership performance about their level of involvement. 	 Organization Leadership Quality and Patient Safety Department Medical Affairs Nursing Department Clinical Affairs Department Human Resource (Training and Development) 	 Improved understanding on the importance of implementing patient safety programs, projects, and activities Enhanced leadership commitment to patient safety Increased emphasis on near-miss reporting
	2. Provide Resources	 Allocate resources for improving the patient safety taxonomy, mapping, etc. Invest in technological advancements to ensure convenient reporting. Provide access to training and education opportunities. 	 Organizational Leadership Quality and Patient Safety Department Finance Department IT Department Human Resource (Training and Development) 	 Improved reporting system Enhanced efficiency in reporting processes Empowered employees with necessary skills
	3. Lead by Example	 Demonstrate consistent reporting behavior Publicly acknowledge reported near misses Share personal experiences and lessons learned from near misses 	 Organization Leadership Quality and Patient Safety Department Medical Affairs Nursing Department Clinical Affairs Department 	 Cultivate culture of transparency and accountability Encourage emulation of reporting behavior Increased trust in reporting process
Organizational Culture •Learning Culture	1. Promote Continuous Learning	 Establish a learning and development program focused on safety Provide access to relevant resources and materials 	 Organization Leadership Quality and Patient Safety Department Medical Affairs Nursing Department Clinical Affairs Department Human Resource (Training and Development) 	 Cultivated culture of continuous improvement Increased knowledge and skills related to reporting Improved understanding of near-miss reporting
	2. Encourage Knowledge Sharing and Information Transfer	 Implement peer-to-peer learning sessions. Conduct a knowledge sharing platform through case presentations with accredited Continuing Medical 	 Organization Leadership Quality and Patient Safety Department Medical Affairs Nursing Department Clinical Affairs 	 Information exchanged through best practice sharing Improved communication and collaboration Increased awareness of near miss reporting

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		Education. - Encourage participation in training.	Department - Human Resource (Training and Development)	
	3. Provide Feedback Mechanism	 Establish feedback channels for reporting near misses. Regularly review and discuss reported near misses with relevant stakeholders including committees or task forces. Encourage cross-departmental collaboration. 	 Organization Leadership Quality and Patient Safety Department Medical Affairs Nursing Department Clinical Affairs Department Human Resource (Training and Development) 	 Facilitated continuous improvement Enhanced learning from reported near misses Identified learning opportunities
Perception of Near Misses Severity	1. Education on Near Miss Definitions	 Define and elucidate the criteria that define a near miss incident. Present illustrative examples of near misses. Provide instruction and guidance on the skill of recognizing near misses. 	 Organization Leadership Quality and Patient Safety Department Medical Affairs Nursing Department Clinical Affairs Department Human Resource (Training and Development) 	 Thorough comprehension of the precise concept of a near miss Aligned on which incidents should be reported Decreased ambiguity regarding near miss reporting
	2. Provide Context on Potential Risks	 Describe the potential consequences of unreported near misses Share case studies or real-life examples Conduct risk assessments regularly 	 Organization Leadership Quality and Patient Safety Department Medical Affairs Nursing Department Clinical Affairs Department 	 Heightened recognition of the potential consequences of near misses Understanding of the significance of reporting Reinforced awareness of the seriousness of near misses
	3. Foster Open Dialogue	 Promote dialogues regarding incidents that narrowly avoided a negative outcome. Conduct regular patient safety meetings to address and analyze near-miss reports. Solicit feedback on near miss reports 	 Organization Leadership Quality and Patient Safety Department Medical Affairs Nursing Department Clinical Affairs Department 	 Enhanced consciousness of near miss concerns Identified avenues to tackle problems and inquiries improved awareness of the significance of reporting management

4. Conclusion and recommendation

Most of the respondents are in Abu Dhabi, Nurses, 35 to 44 years old, and outpatients, female, bachelor's degree graduates, and working in private hospitals. The respondents disagreed that fear of reprisal and the lack of time and resources are barriers to near misses, while they agreed that organizational culture and near miss severity are barriers. There is a significant difference in terms of educational background. At the same time, there are substantial and non-significant differences when they are grouped according to location, staff category, age, and years of experience. On the other hand, significant differences were found when they are grouped according to gender, specialty areas, and hospital setting on the respondents' assessment on the barriers to reporting near misses. The respondents agreed with all the identified perceived encouragement and accessibility of missed reporting. A Coping Strategic Plan was proposed.

Focus on workforce distribution in the UAE's healthcare sector for strategic resource allocation. Abu Dhabi's dominance highlights it as a hub, while regions like Ras Al Khaimah need targeted initiatives. It is crucial to address gender disparities and age diversity, as this promotes interdisciplinary collaboration and builds a resilient healthcare workforce. Tailor strategies based on specialty and settings to optimize healthcare delivery. To improve near-miss reporting in UAE healthcare, prioritize supportive mechanisms, streamline reporting processes, and foster a culture of continuous learning. Leadership training, open communication, and focusing on near misses as learning opportunities are essential to enhance patient safety and staff engagement. Tailor interventions to regional, demographic, and organizational differences. Leadership should drive open communication and safety initiatives to encourage near-miss reporting. Regular assessments are necessary to monitor progress and address emerging barriers, creating a safe environment for healthcare professionals to report without fear. Continue strengthening leadership support for near-miss reporting, ensuring accessible and user-friendly systems. Promote anonymous reporting and real-time feedback while leveraging technology to streamline processes. Regular training and acknowledgment of reported incidents will further promote patient

safety and staff engagement. Healthcare organizations should implement anonymous reporting, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and invest in education. Leadership should advocate for a safety culture and reward near-miss reporting to enhance morale and patient safety. Some long-term studies on workforce dynamics and demographic shifts in the UAE that should be conducted are essential to predict needs and guide interventions, particularly in underrepresented regions. Through qualitative research, explore organizational and leadership factors affecting near-miss reporting and assess the role of technology, AI, and machine learning in enhancing safety systems.

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