



Session Code: ISQUA2023-SES-1458 Promoting Speaking Up For Patient Safety In Your Healthcare Organization

Prof Kok Hian TAN

Group Director & Senior Associate Dean, SingHealth Duke-NUS Institute for Patient Safety & Quality (IPSQ) , Singapore

Ms Nguk Lan PANG

Deputy Group Director, SingHealth Duke-NUS Institute for Patient Safety & Quality (IPSQ), Singapore

Ms Zann Foo

Deputy Director (Admin)
SingHealth Duke-NUS Institute for Patient Safety & Quality (IPSQ), Singapore

Ms Tang Joo Ying

Manager
SingHealth Duke-NUS Institute for Patient Safety & Quality (IPSQ), Singapore



Scope

- 01 Introduction
- 02 Design & roll-out of Speak up Program
- O3 Spread & Sustain a STRONG Speak Up
 Program
- 04 Impact
- 05 Summary

Singapore Public Healthcare Clusters SingHealth NATIONAL SKIN CENTRE Tan Tock Seng INSTITUTE MENTAL HEALTH EYE INSTITUTE NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY SINGAPORE POLYCLINICS Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Yishun Community Hospital Khoo Teck Puat Hospital グメ^{ラン}CENTRAL **WEST EAST NUHS** NUHS National University Health System Alexandra Hospital Community SingHealth Jurong Medical Centre National University

We are the Largest Public Cluster in Singapore

SingHealth Duke-NUS Institute for Patient Safety & Quality (IPSQ)



IPSQ is established to integrate cluster-wide efforts in patient safety, quality improvement in clinical services, research and education. It aims to develop both healthcare professionals and patients to become advocates for and leaders in patient safety and quality improvement to enhance capacity in improving patient safety.

Focus on eliminating preventable harm and improving patient outcomes by:

- Cultivating a strong patient safety culture throughout the Cluster
- Adopting an integrated approach in patient safety and quality management
- Providing strategic leadership across multiple platforms and domains in this area
- Encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and coordination among our stakeholders and partners

A Collaboration between IPSQ & WHO Patient Safety Flagship Unit

An online and public platform to facilitate systematic collection and sharing of patient safety knowledge by different stakeholders in different geographic regions, economics and cultural settings.

As a global community of learning, GKPS aims to support and enhance knowledge sharing and strengthen the global network to improve patient safety and quality of care and in driving the Global Patient Safety Action Plan (GPSAP) 2021-2030

Please scan the QR code to share patient safety Improvements, Experiences and Practices with the Global Community.





Launch in middle of September 2023

Definition of Psychological Safety for the Healthcare System

The belief that anyone can express their thoughts, ideas, and concerns without fear of negative consequences, such as embarrassment, punishment, or rejection.



Why the Need for Speak up Program?

To Build Psychological Safety & Speak Up Culture For Your Healthcare System

Many documented incidents and personal experiences reflect how harm have been prevented when someone **immediately** shared critical information.

"Joint Commission predicted that **80** % of the serious safety events occur due to miscommunications among healthcare professionals. Speaking up is one of the critical behaviours of patient safety and is an important role for improving quality and patient safety in healthcare."

Nacioglu, A. (2016). As a critical behavior to improve quality and patient safety in health care: speaking up!. Safety in Health, 2(1), 10.

Why the Need for Speak up Program?

To Build Psychological Safety & Speak Up Culture For Your Healthcare System



Strategic objective 2:

Build high-reliability health systems and health organizations that protect patients daily from harm

Actions for health care facilities & services

✓ Reduce hierarchical structures, attitudes and behaviour throughout the organization, promoting a speak-up culture.



Why Speak up Program at SingHealth?

To Build Psychological Safety & Speak Up Culture For Your Healthcare System



Failure to speak up and to escalate issue when weakness were observed by staff in the infection prevention & control system

Patient Safety. No Room for Complacency for Psychological Safety



Human Fallibility – Build Psychological Safety for Team Support to Speak Up

To Err Is Human

Slips

Mental lapses

Mistakes

To Drift Is Human

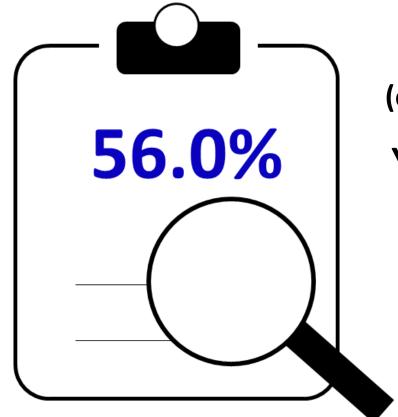
Growing acceptance of a risky behaviour as justifiable

Eg: failed to check 2 patient identifiers as in a rush

Need to have Team Support to look out for each other by speaking up when there are safety concerns

Are Our Staff Speaking Up?

The SingHealth Employee Engagement Survey in 2016 showed a low proportion of staff who felt it was safe to speak up.



"Most of the time it is safe to speak up (e.g., voice opinions, problems) in this organization"

Yes to Question on Speak Up: 11,656 (56.0%)





Survey Response Rate: 93.6% (N=20,814 of 22,239)



Some Barriers To Speaking Up





Not related to my duties Working relationship strained Fear of repercussion Not sure how to say it What if I'm wrong? I'm just a junior Create more work for myself Do not feel psychologically safe



A Virtuous Patient Safety & Quality Ecosystem

The safety culture must intertwine with the overall organizational philosophy and culture

- Promote desired cultures
- Mitigate counter cultures
 - Hierarchical culture
 - Paternalistic culture
 - Liability fear culture
 - Blame culture



Tan KH, Pang NL, Siau C, Foo Z, Fong KY. Building an organizational culture of patient safety. Journal of Patient Safety and Risk Management. 2019:24(6);253–261.



How TeamSPEAKTM Started

Introduced in 2018, TeamSPEAKTM is a program designed to introduce Speaking Up for Safety and promoting Psychological Safety

- A core pool of multi-disciplinary staff was recommended to be certified trainers of TeamSTEPPS (program in teamwork and team communications) by completing the Train-the-trainer TeamSTEPPS.
- Appropriate concepts and tools were thus adopted and adapted with localized and contextualized scenarios in developing TeamSPEAK™.





Design & Roll-out Elements



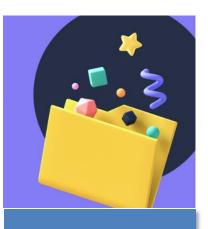
Set Strong
Organizational
Priority



Communicate
Objectives &
Outcomes



Gather
Passionate
Faculty



Build Contextualized Resources



Harness Effective Strategies



1. Set Psychological Safety as a Strong Organizational Priority

- Identify strengthening psychological safety as a key priority to focus during Leadership Retreat
- Cross-institutional and cross-disciplines
 Workgroup was established to formulate strategies
- Regular review of strategies at Leadership
 Meeting (i.e. CEOCMB meeting)





2. Communicate Clear Objectives

To improve psychological safety and the culture of speakingup through

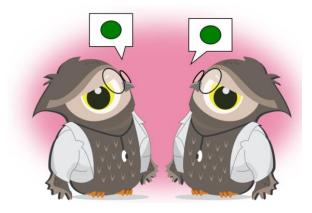
- a locally developed &
- tailored programme in our Academic Health System



2. Communicate Clear Expected Outcomes

Empowering staff to support each other





Shared mental model through the use of critical trigger words

Communicate concerns to colleagues when unintended safety issues may be about to occur





Responding positively when being spoken to



3. Gather Passionate Faculty

- Strong advocate for patient safety
- With commitment to conduct training during the implementation
- Identify faculty from cross-disciplines

 (i.e., Medical, Nursing, Allied Health and Administration)
- Recognized as TeamSPEAKTM Faculty (Appointment letter with Term of Reference)





4. Build Contextualised Resources

Get buy in and enable staff to relate and facilitate realistic work scenario

Clinical and non-clinical settings

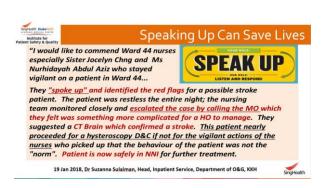
The 7 settings are:

- Hand Hygiene at Patient Bedside
- Wrong Prescription Order
- Cleaning of Bed area
- HR Pre-Employment Medical Examination
- Office Safety Hazard
- Trolley along Narrow Corridor
- Poor Workplace Behaviour NEW

















5. Harness Effective Strategies

TeamSPEAKTM



Two-Challenge Rule







CUS Words

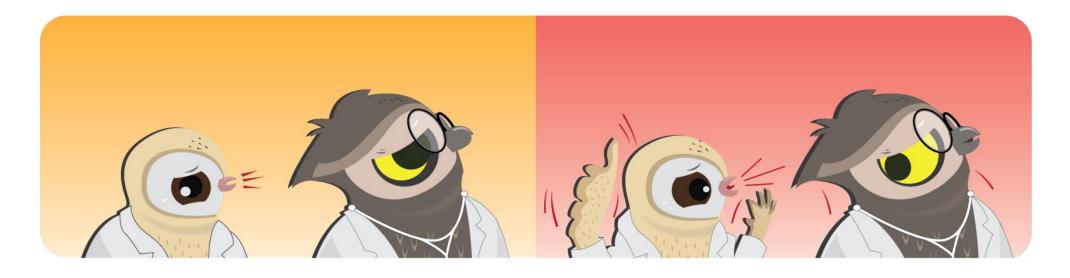


Respond Positively





Two-Challenge Rule



It is **your responsibility** to assertively voice your concern **at least two times respectfully** to ensure that it has been heard.

Ensure that whoever being spoken to acknowledge your message.





CUS Words







CUS words are **trigger words** which help to *trigger* the attention of your colleague that potential harm may be about to occur.





"C" For Concerned



Use CUS words to help trigger attention to potential harm.

Raise your concern by using words like

Concerned Check

"I am concerned, is this dosage for this patient too high?"

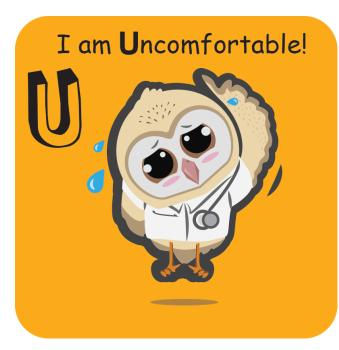
"Is it OK if you check if your hands are clean first?"

"I am concerned, is this the correct patient?"





"U" For Uncomfortable



If you do not see the intended response, continue raising your concern using the word

Uncomfortable

State why you are uncomfortable by sharing what you think or know.

"I am **uncomfortable** with the dosage as it's much higher than what I've seen before. <u>We</u> should recheck the dosage again."

"I am uncomfortable that the patient is not improving. Let's get someone else in to review the chest tube." SingHealth



"S" For Safety



If there is still no positive response, you should escalate the conversation by using the words

Safety **S**top

Propose bringing in a **S**enior or **S**upervisor into the discussion.

"This is a **safety** issue. We should ask our **supervisor** to see if this is OK."

"We need to **stop** before we risk hurting this patient. Let's consult a **senior** before proceeding."



You Can Respond Positively

Encourage your colleagues to inform you of any concerns they may have.



Ask your colleague how he or she prefers to be informed should you spot a potential harm.

Listen to their concerns and engage in a constructive discussion. Do what's best for the patient.

Thank anyone who speaks up to you, *especially* when they are wrong!

Spread & Sustain a Strong Speak Up Program





1. Strong Leadership Commitment

TeamSPEAKTM is first introduced to the Institution Leaders before roll out to institution's staff.

Leaders as role models.

Attend and promote the workshop.





2. Sustain Faculty Pool through Train-the-Trainer Model

The Train-the Trainer model was set up to help institutions build their core pool of trainers who are equipped to conduct TeamSPEAKTM.

Allow institutions to kickstart their journey at their own pace as each institution has different set of priorities.



Attend TeamSPEAK[™] as a Learners



Sharing Session with Master Trainers



Final assessment by facilitating a TeamSPEAK™ teaching session



Recognized by IPSQ as affiliated TeamSPEAK[™] Faculty and Institution TeamSPEAK[™] Faculty



2. Sustain Faculty Pool through Train-the-Trainer Model

12 multi-disciplinary pioneer trainers **212** TeamSPEAKTM appointed Faculty and affiliated Faculty across **SingHealth** >25,000 staff (Data as of July 2023) trained in TeamSPEAKTM

3. Actively Promote & Enable Psychological Safety

TeamSPEAKTM is included as one of the indicators in SingHealth Patient Safety Engagement Report (PASER). Support cluster-wide

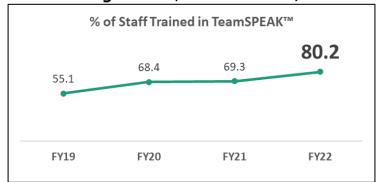
sharing & learning

PASER aims to strengthen commitment & accountability for patient safety, patient safety culture, improvement efforts, & identify opportunities for cluster-wide sharing & learning.



Indicator: Psychological Safety
 % Staff trained in TeamSPEAKTM
 or an equivalent Speak Up Programme

SingHealth (TeamSPEAK status)



^{*}Based on 2022 Annual Report staff strength of 32,219 for 11 institutions

Indicator: Institution Safety Index
 From the AHRQ Patient Safety
 Culture Survey

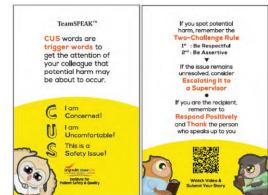


4. Strengthen Awareness of Speaking Up

Materials were developed to create awareness and internalization of

the concepts and tools on speaking up

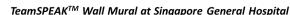
- TeamSPEAKTM Pocket Card
- TeamSPEAKTM Screensaver
- Bulletins on Speaking UP
- Speaking Up Webinars





TeamSPEAK™ Pocket Card







5. Recognize Staff for Speaking Up

Awards roll-out by Cluster and Institutions to recognize staff who spoke up and listened up







5. Recognize Staff for Speaking Up

Stories are shared across the cluster for learning through webinars and bulletins







Grow Appreciation of Speaking Up

Increase in number of Patient Safety Awards rolled out by Institution to encourage and recognize individuals and teams in speaking up

- Good Catch Award
- Star of the Month in Good Catches
- Safety Star Award



Consistent Messaging Across Programmes to attain Staff Commitment

E.g. Just Culture Training in Building a Culture of Safe Choices Together

- 1. I will always make safe choices
- 2. I will be accountable for the choices I make
- 3. I will avoid unsafe choices and **Speak Up when I notice at-risk** behaviours or reckless behaviours
- 4. I will commit to learning and be part of continuous improvement



Impact of TeamSPEAKTM Testimonials from Institutions Leadership

TeamSPEAK™ is 1 of the key onboarding programme that we put our hires in SCH through. It has allowed our new staff to be aware that each of them are welcomed to speak up and to our current staff, it re-emphasized the need for active listening and positive response so as to encourage a psychologically safe culture and environment. This has allowed SCH to have a good employment engagement experience and to upkeep a positive work culture.

Ever since the roll-out of TeamSPEAK, I can feel that staff in SingHealth and various institutions are more willing to speak up without fear.

Adj Asst. Prof Luke Low Sher Guan Director (Medical),
Sengkang Community Hospital

TeamSPEAK™ was a significant call out to organization from Nursing Employee Engagement Survey (2019 results versus 2021 showed an improvement of 6%).

Key summary from the verbatim from Nurses who have attended the program:

- Most felt useful and more confident when speaking up
- · Created the awareness on speaking up
- Felt empowered to speak up
- Staff are able to speak the same language in terms of speaking up

The near miss reporting has also improved as staff are speaking up. Generally, staff felt that the training provided are good at preventing errors from happening. Nursing Employee Engagement Survey 2019 results versus 2021 showed an improvement of 10%.

Dr Loh Huey Peng Chief Nurse Singapore National Eye Centre The training provides a safe space for staff to practice speaking up in a non-threatening environment and empowers staff to feel safe raising concerns using a common "language". Implementing this common "language" has removed the apprehension and given staff the reassurance that they will be heard when they speak up.

TeamSPEAK™ strategies are simple for all levels of staff to understand and apply in their respective areas of work. In particular, CUS words are easy to remember, especially useful in an urgent situation, and a helpful framework for those who find speaking up difficult.

Cl A/Prof Ken Tan

Director, Clinical Governance and Quality Management National Dental Centre Singapore

TeamSPEAKTM is one of the best program that I have attended. It is straightforward, the message on CUS is simple, very focused and not much philosophy stuff that helps me to remember the salient points.

The local context teaching videos are well-done and is effective to illustrate the concept. It helps to engage the learners as well.

A/Prof Phua Ghee Chee Group Director, Staff Wellness SingHealth



Impact of TeamSPEAK™

- Interest from external stakeholders -

Express of interest for TeamSPEAKTM partnership from :

- ✓ Other Singapore Public Healthcare Cluster
- ✓ Preschool Management Division



After learning about KKH's Speak Up for Safety Campaign, we find it strongly resonates with what we advocate. Your focus on encouraging individuals to voice concerns, promoting open communication, and fostering a culture of safety is what we are looking for. We would very much like to learn how your organisation empowers your staff to express their concerns and develop their awareness of safety. We strongly believe it would greatly enhance our preschool's safety education efforts, benefiting our children and the preschool community.

By Preschool Management Division



Impact of TeamSPEAKTM -Support & Feedback from Staff-

- More than more than 25,000 (80.2%) out of a total of 32,219 SingHealth staff have attended TeamSPEAK™ as of March 2023. There was much publicity on speaking up.
- The biennial SingHealth Employee Engagement Survey results from 2016, 2019 and 2021 were evaluated to determine if staff feels safe to speak up

SingHealth Employee Engagement Survey Year & No of Staff	2016 Survey Response Rate: 93.6% N = 20,814 of 22,239	2019 Survey Response Rate: 93.3% N = 25,781 of 27,620	2021 Survey Response Rate: 98.2% N = 30,158 of 30,724
Yes to Question on Speak Up: Most of the time it is safe to speak up (e.g., voice opinions, problems) in this organization	11,656 (56.0%)	17,789 (69.0%)*	21,412 (71.0%)#

Significantly success in encouraging speaking up behaviour!

*2016 vs 2019 (p<0.00001); #2019 vs 2021 (p<0.00001)



Impact of TeamSPEAKTM -Cost Avoidance-

USD \$436,490

USD \$186,137

Est. external Vendor Cost (if training outsource) for the last 3 years

Est. License fees for 3 years



For all SingHealth institutions participated in our in-house developed contextualised Speak Up Psychological Training as compared to offered by external vendor

USD \$622,627

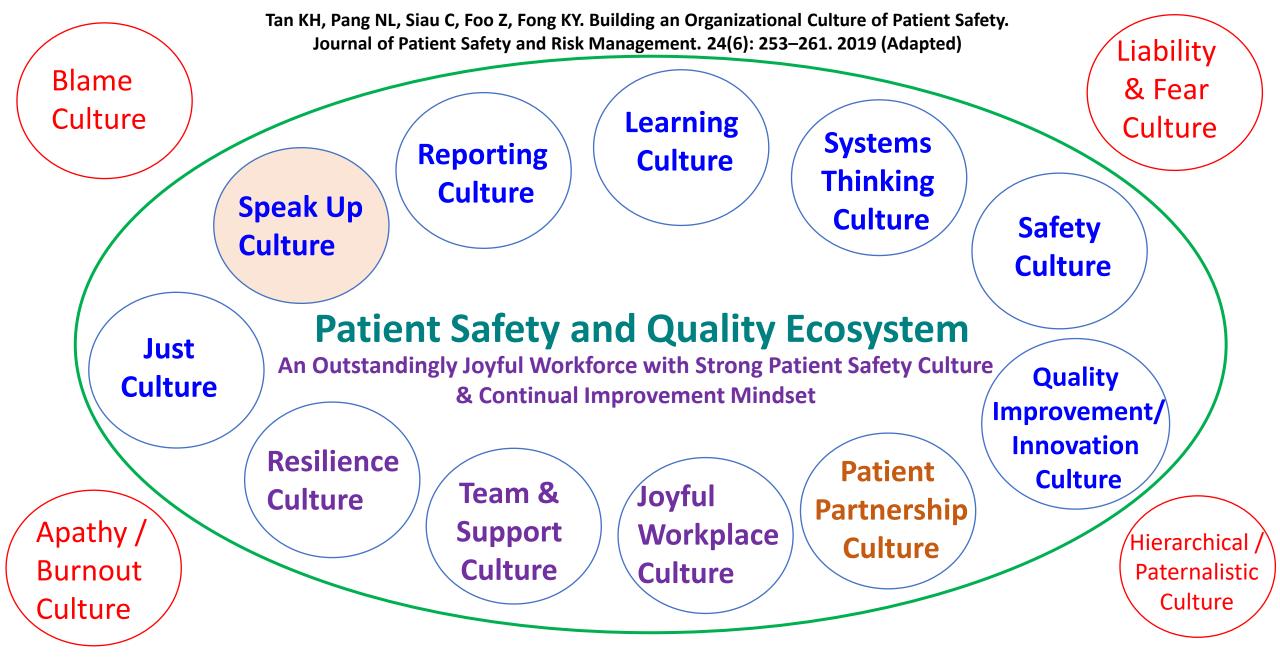
Total Cost Avoidance for 3 years

The inhouse staff faculty trained in the Train-the-Trainer model gain from acquiring teaching skill sets, career satisfaction, personal accomplishment and staff camaraderie



Winner of the AMEI Golden Apple Awards 2023 – Programme Excellence Award (Interprofession) category





Patient Safety and Quality Ecosystem and its Constituent Cultures vs. Counter Cultures

Summary

- 1. Organizational priority, clear objectives & outcomes of program, passionate faculty, contextualized resources and effective strategies are important elements in setting up program to build psychological safety for your healthcare system
- 2. Leadership commitment, a train-the-trainer model, active promotion & enablement of psychological safety, strengthened awareness of speaking up and an ongoing recognition of staff for speaking up, ensure sustainability of a strong speak up culture.
- 3. Our TeamSPEAKTM training program initiative **will improve** psychological safety within our healthcare system
- 4. The healthy Speak Up Culture strengthens our patient safety and quality ecosystem.







Thank You from TeamSPEAKTM Singapore

