Patient Safety Culture Symposium
York University
July 4th-5th, 2007
Why this Symposium?

- This symposium is part of the KT of a study to: *Improve measurement of Patient Safety Culture and establish links to patient safety activity*.
- Study funding, investigators and decision makers.
- Meeting is about:
  - Measurement of PSC
  - Actions to improve safety culture
  - The role of leadership
Patient Safety Culture

- Safety Culture has many definitions and is part of many models
- Different terms are used (culture, climate)
- In simple terms, “The way things are done around here”
- Lack of agreement on what safety culture is leads to some measurement challenges
Safety Culture is characterized by:

- Open communication
- Perceptions of the importance of safety
- Leadership and executive responsibility
- Organizational learning
- Approach to incident reporting and analysis
- Confidence in the efficacy of preventative safety measures

Why is a focus on Safety Culture so Important?

Is safety culture linked to health and safety outcomes?
- In other industries, safety culture has been linked to improved safety outcomes (e.g. fewer micro-accidents)
- In healthcare, the broader concept of organizational culture (as opposed to safety specific culture) has been shown to predict things like medication safety

Is safety culture linked to safety practices?
- It certainly stands to reason that many safety practices are unlikely to be successful in the absence of a culture of safety
- Others suggest engaging in the behaviour is how we change culture

We focus on patient safety culture b/c assessing and improving it is no easy task
However, just as we somehow always manage to cope with challenges life brings…

...so can we also manage the challenge of moving patient safety culture forward
Today’s Program

- This KT effort is designed to suggest some things to consider (through the speakers) and uncover others (through the café conversations)
- We have also included an artistic program in an effort to explore different mechanisms for KT
Thank you

- CPSI
- DM partners, survey and FG respondents
- Sponsors: