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# Risk Pearls: January 2017

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The term “culture” in your medical practice shouldn’t only mean a lab test to identify microorganisms. Even if you’re not aware of it, there is an environmental culture within your practice that affects productivity, staff performance and patient safety. Culture is a system of shared values and beliefs that influence how people in the organization behave. Culture is dynamic, and maintaining a healthy culture requires nurturing. The new year is a good time to assess expectations and values; how the practice treats employees and patients; and establish new goals. Emphasis on people, innovation and the patient experience may enrich your practice’s culture and start the new year off right.

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