

# Patient Safety Culture in Georgian Healthcare (PaSCu.Ge)

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## Background

### Setting:

Building a culture of safety within healthcare providers is considered an important step towards improving patient safety. Georgian healthcare is still developing and transforming, currently placing the emphasis on quality and safety of healthcare products and services.

### Problem:

- No validated instruments for measuring Patient Safety Culture in Georgian hospitals;
- Current state of Patient Safety Culture in Georgian healthcare is not studied;
- The local characteristics of determinants of Patient Safety Culture are unknown.

### Objective:

- Evaluation of the current state and local characteristics of Patient Safety Culture in Georgian healthcare.

## Methods

### Study instruments

- Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (SAQ), short version<sup>1</sup>;
- Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture (HSPSC)<sup>2</sup>;
- Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture, management version (HSPSC-M)<sup>3</sup>.

### Study participants

- Top-management of the hospital (HSPSC-M);
- All other hospital employees of the organization, randomly assigned to one of the questionnaire (SAQ-short or HSPSC).

## Research questions

1. Can Patient Safety Culture in Georgian healthcare be measured reliably using translated and adapted versions of existing instruments?
2. What are current characteristics of Patient Safety Culture in Georgian healthcare?
3. What is the relationship between various organizational factors and Patient Safety Culture?

## Study sample

### Inclusion criteria for the hospitals

- 100 or more hospital beds;
- At least one internal medicine and one surgical departments;
- Multiprofile (not specialized);
- Serves general population.

### Eligible hospitals <sup>a</sup>

- The number of eligible hospitals – 26 (1 state, 25 private; all for-profit);
- Total number of hospital beds – 4403 (mean 169; SD 67);
- Total number of employees – 13968 (mean 537; SD 225).

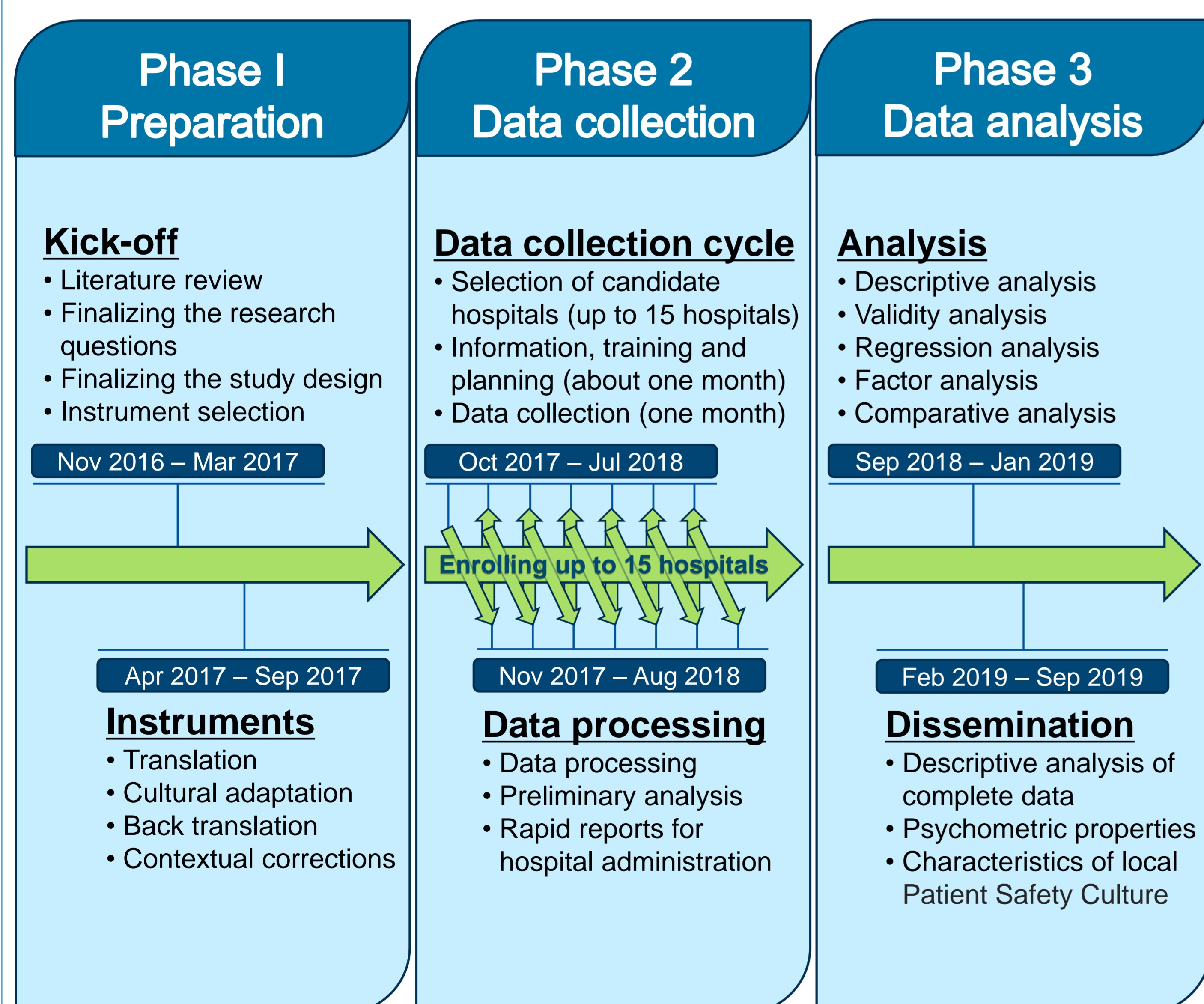
### Other characteristics of Georgian healthcare

- Almost all hospitals in the country are private;
- Most hospitals share a considerable portion of healthcare personnel, especially physicians, who frequently work at several hospitals at the same time;
- Nurse/physician ratio – 0.81 (Germany – 3.2)<sup>b</sup>.

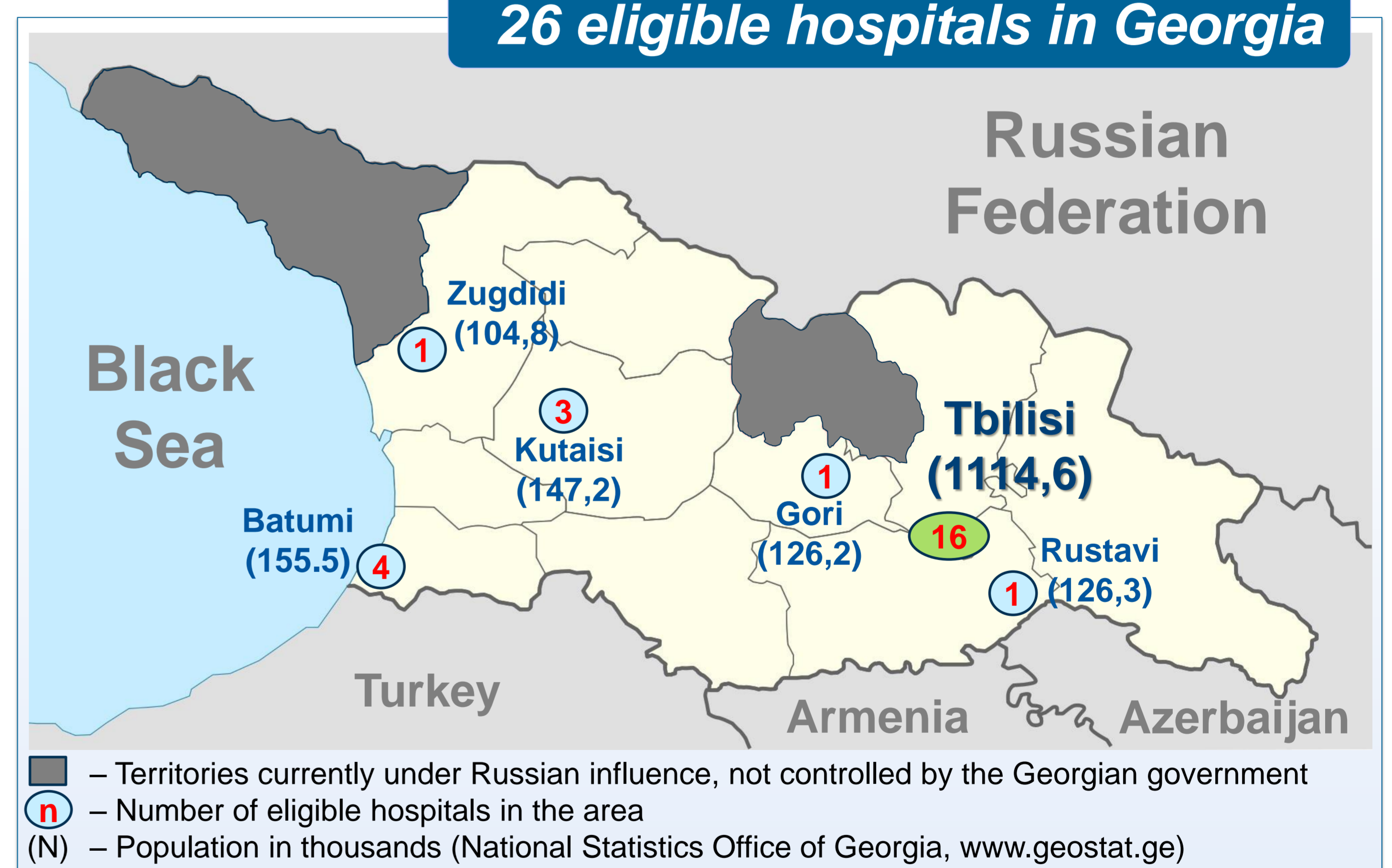
<sup>a</sup> Preliminary estimates based on data retrieved from various sources, including web-sites of the organizations and the web-site of Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;

<sup>b</sup> World health organization, Core Health Indicators in the WHO European Region 2015, Special focus: human resources for health.

## Study timeline



## 26 eligible hospitals in Georgia



## Expected results

- Validated Georgian version of study instruments;
- Baseline evaluation of Patient Safety Culture in various Georgian healthcare providers;
- Analysis of different organizational characteristics and their influence on Patient Safety Culture in Georgian healthcare system.

## References

1. Sexton, JB et al (2006): The Safety Attitudes Questionnaire: psychometric properties, benchmarking data, and emerging research. In BMC health services research 6, p. 44. DOI: 10.1186/1472-6963-6-44.
2. Sorra, JS; Nieva, VF (2004): Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture. AHRQ Publication No.04-0041. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.
3. Hammer, A et al (2011): Psychometric properties of the Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture for hospital management (HSOPS-M). In BMC health services research 11, p. 165. DOI: 10.1186/1472-6963-11-165.

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