

ASSESSMENT OF NURSES ROLE IN PROVIDING CARE FOR DYING PATIENTS ⁺

تقييم دور الممرضين في تقديم العناية للمرضى المحتضرين

Kareem Ghadhban Sajem * Ali Kareem Khothar ** Huda Baqur Hassan **

المستخلص:

دراسة وصفية أجريت في مستشفيات (مدينة الطب والصدر) للمدة من 22/11/2009 ولغاية 1/4/2010 في مدينة بغداد لتقييم دور الممرضين (الممرضات) في تقديم العناية للمرضى المحتضرين وعلاقتها ببعض المتغيرات. تضمنت عينة البحث (40) ممرض وممرضة يعملون في المستشفيات اعلاه. اذ تكونت أداة البحث من (28) فقرة .منها (9) فقرات تتعلق بالخصائص الديموغرافية للعينة و(19) فقرة) تتعلق بالرعاية التمريضية المقدمة للمريض المحتضر . تم تحديد صدق الاستبانة من خلال عرضها على 3 خبراء في مجال الاختصاص ، وتم استخدام الإحصاء الوصفي (التكرارات ، النسبة المئوية ، الوسط الحسابي) والاستنتاجي (مربع كاي) لتحليل المعلومات . أظهرت نتائج الدراسة ان أكثر الممرضين هم ذكور من خريجي اعداديات التمريض معظمهم لديهم خبرة أكثر من 16 سنة. معظم الممرضين لا يقدمون الإسناد الموسيقي ولا يحضرون رجل الدين للتخفيف عن معاناة المرضى المحتضرين كما أظهرت الدراسة وجود علاقات معنوية بين كل من الرعاية التمريضية المقدمة من قبل الممرضين ومستوى تعليمهم وسنوات الخبرة . لذا أوصت الدراسة بأجراء دراسات على عينة اكبر تعتمد طرق الملاحظة وإجراء برامج تدريبية للممرضين تتضمن الإسناد الروحي للمرضى المحتضرين طبقاً للمعتقدات الدينية والحاجات الأساسية الأخرى.

Abstract:

A descriptive study was conducted in (Medical city and Al- Sader) Hospitals from 22/11/2009 to 1/4/2010 in order to assess the nurses role in providing care for dying patients and its relation to some variables.

The sample consist of (40) nurse who were working in these hospitals. The Instrument consists of (28) items, (9) items related to socio-demographic characteristics of nurses and (19) items related to nursing care for the dying patients.

Validity of the instrument was established through a panel of 3 experts in specialized filed. Descriptive(Frequencies, Percentage, Mean of score) and inferential(Chi-Square) statistical procedures were applied to the data analysis.

Results of the study showed that most of nurses was male, secondary school nursing graduated and the majority of them had over 16 years of experience,

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*Lecturer/ Medical Technical Institute/Al-Mansour

**Lecturer / Nursing College/ University of Baghdad

most of the nurses not given musical support and religious man to reduced the burden of dying patients, and there was significant relationships between nurses who provide nursing care to the dying patients with their level of education and years of experience.

The study recommended that further studies on large sample depend on the observation methods and training programs include spiritual support to the dying patients according to religious beliefs and other basic needs.

Introduction:

Dying as a natural process that is a profoundly personal experience for the individual and family [1,2]. It is not a precise science [3]. Dying person was defined as "any hospitalized person not expected to improve and recover from his /her illness or condition [4].

Approximately 70% of patients died in hospital, 20% died at home and 10% died in hospices and else where .The percentage dying in hospital has gone up over the years [5,6]. It is clear that better care for the dying is urgently needed in hospitals [7].

Kubler and Roos described five stages of coping with dying process. Denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance [8]. Many people at the end of their life will be suffering from number of different conditions not just one [9].

Nurses assume number of roles when they provide care to patients. They may act as a counselor while providing physical care and teaching aspects of that care [10,11]. They are uniquely prepared to offer compassionate care for dying patients and families [12].

Nursing care goals for the dying patients and their families are; assist the patient in living mournfully need comfortably until death, help the family support, the patient, and encourage accepting to his death [1 ,10].

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) holds that nurses are key members of multidisciplinary teams caring for dying patients and their families [1]. For at least 30 years, nurse educators have emphasized that nursing students need curriculum content that focuses on dying, death, grief and loss [4].

Objectives of the Study:

1. To assess the nurses role in providing nursing care to the dying patients.
2. To find out the relationships between the level of education and years of experience of nurses with their nursing role.

Methodology:

Design of the study: A descriptive study was carried out to a chive the purpose of the study.

Setting of the study: The present study was conducted in Al Sader and Medical city hospitals in Baghdad governorate.

Sample of the study: A non-probability (purposive) sample of 40 Nurses (Male and female).

Data collection: Data were collected through self reported from nurses by using a questionnaire format constructed by the researcher for the purpose of the study from 22/ 11/ 2009 to 1/4/ 2010

Study instrument: For the purpose of the present study, a questionnaire was constructed employed through the review of available literature and background experience.

The questionnaire consist of two parts :

Part 1: Included (9) items concerned to socio-demographic characteristics of the nurses such as (sex , level of education and years of experience).

Part II: Include (19) items concerned with nursing care of dying patients. Scoring is on a three-point likert scale (3 always, 2 sometimes and 1 never).

Validity of the instrument: The validity of the instrument was established through a panel of 3 experts in specialized field (2 of CH Nursing and 1 of Medical Surgical Nursing).

Statistical analysis: 1- Descriptive analysis

- Frequencies (F)
- Percentage (%)
- Mean of scores (MS)

2-Inferential analysis

2

- Chi-Square (X)

Results:

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of the nurses

Variables	F	%
1. Sex		
- Male	22	55
- Female	18	45
Total	40	100
2. Level of education		
- Secondary nursing school	18	45
- Medical institute	14	35
- Nursing college	8	20
Total	40	100
3. Years of experience		
-1-5 years	8	20
-6-10 years	6	15
-11-15 years	10	25
-over 16 years	16	40
Total	40	100

Table (1) presented the socio-demographic characteristics of 40 nurses. Most of them was male (55%) , 45% of them graduated from secondary nursing school and the majority of them had over 16 years of experience (40%) .

Table 2 : Item of nursing care for the dying patients

Variables		Always 3		Sometimes 2		Never 1		Mean of Score
No.	Do you do the following ?	F	%	F	%	F	%	
1	Maintain a secure, caring atmosphere.	29	72.5	11	27.5	0	0	2.72
2	Comfort the dying patient.	33	82.5	7	17.5	0	0	2.82
3	Provide psychological support to the patient (self-esteem).	30	75	9	22.5	1	2.5	2.72
4	Encourage the patient to participate in decisions that affect the patient's life.	31	77.5	8	20	1	2.5	2.75
5	Understand the patient's anger.	21	52.5	15	37.5	4	10	2.42
6	Encourage the patient to articulate needs and feelings.	31	77.5	9	22.5	0	0	2.77

7	Help the patient schedule daily routines	31	77.5	9	22.5	0	0	2.77
	7a- Provide Medication	34	85	6	15	0	0	2.85
	7b- Maintain Nutrition and Fluids	34	85	6	15	0	0	2.85
	7c- Prepare Bathing	26	65	14	35	0	0	2.65
	7d- Chang of cloths	24	60	12	30	4	10	2.5
	7e- Prepare Enema as needed	24	60	11	27.5	5	12.5	2.47
8	Assist the patient in remembers the past.	22	55	15	37	3	7.5	2.47
9	Privacy of the patients.	34	85	6	15	0	0	2.85
10	Measures to relieve pain.	35	87.5	5	12.5	0	0	2.87
11	Provide musical support.	3	7.5	4	10	33	82.5	1.25
12	Continues observation for the patients.	24	60	13	32.5	3	7.5	2.52
13	Prepare the religious man as needed.	7	17.5	18	45	15	37.5	1.8
14	Help the patient to die peacefully.	34	85	6	15	0	0	2.85
Mean of Score								2.00

Table (2) indicated that the low mean of scores were provide musical support (1.25) and prepare the religious man as needed (1.8).

Tale 3 : Relationship between nurses who provide the nursing care to dying patients and their level of education .

Nursing care level of education	Always		sometimes		Never		Total
	F	%	F	%.	F	%	
- Secondary nursing school	12	30	4	10	2	5	18
- Medical institute	10	25	3	7.5	1	2.5	14
- Nursing college	5	12.5	3	7.5	0	0	8
Total	27	67.5	10	25	3	7.5	40

X² : - Observable : 7.07
- Tabulated: 14.860

df : 4
p : ≤ 0.05

This table revealed that there was a significant relationship between the nurses who provide the nursing care to dying patients and their level of education.

Table 4 : Relationship between nurses who provide nursing care to dying patients and their years of experience.

Nursing care years of experience	Always		sometimes		Never		Total
	F	%	F	%	F	%	
- 1-5 years	5	12.5	2	5	1	2.5	8
- 6-10 years	4	10	2	5	0	0	6
- 11-15 years	6	15	3	7.5	1	2.5	10
- 16 years and over	12	30	3	7.5	1	2.5	16
Total	27	67.5	10	25	3	7.5	40

X² : - Observable : 11.51

df : 6

This table indicated that there was a significant relationship between nurses who provide nursing care to dying patients and their years of experience.

Discussion:

Socio-demographic characteristics of the sample in the present study indicated that most of nurses were male (55%) have secondary school nursing (45%) and majority of them had over 16 years of experience(40%) (Table1).

The results of the present study indicated that there were high mean of scores in most items of the study except items of musical support and prepare of religious man (Table 2). Such results of high means of scores related to nursing care of dying patients which stated that the role of nurses in caring for dying patients continues to be debated and nurses must be knowledgeable about the current issues and legislation about end stage of life issues. The quality of care during the end of life greatly contributes to peaceful dignified death and provides support to family members [1,12,13]. Also, nurses carrying out these activities work in homes, hospitals, and extended care facilities. They may be act as a counselor while providing physical care and teaching aspects of that care[10].

Regarding to the low mean of scores of provide musical support(1.25) and prepare of religious man (1.8) (Table 2) . Such needs has not provided in our hospitals because culture of community. While the dying patients and their families have individual cultural beliefs and values, the nurses must provide culturally sensitive and holistic care that respects spiritual and religious beliefs [12]. The researchers believe that much of the dying patients and their families sometime like to listen to Holy book and hymn, for psychological and spiritual support more than musical support. Regarding to prepare of religious man , the researchers believe that the responsibility of these duty can be provided by nurses and family of patient, such believes agree that nurse should consult with the native healer, clergy , hospital chaplain, or other religious practitioner regarding what may be helpful in the spiritual care of the dying [2, 11]. As well as, Emotional support is always part of nursing care; however , it may be more necessary for dying client then in any other situation [13].

There were significant relationship between nurses who provided nursing care to dying patients regarding to their level of education (Table 3). Focused on differences between first year and senior nursing students in their attitudes toward death and dying. They found that senior students who had completed specific coursework in death, grief and loss who had received counseling were better able to relate, with more acceptance to dying persons, than were freshman students[3].

The study presented that there were a significant relationship between nurses who provided nursing care to dying patients and their years of experience (Table 4). Study showed that graduate nurses can not be experts in providing care to dying patients, but teaching basic knowledge, providing relevant experiences , and helping students to garner the wisdom entailed in the experience are within the realm of a thorough nursing education [3].

As well as, the education, clinical practice, and research concerning end-of-life care are evolving and need to qualified nurses and other health care professionals to care for the dying has emerged as a priority[2].

These trends supported throughout the client- oriented roles involve direct provision of client services. These include the roles of caregiver, education, counselor, referral resource, role model, advocate, primary care provider and case manager[14].

Conclusion :

- 1- Most of nurses were male has secondary school nursing and the majority of them had over 16 years of experience.
- 2- The study discovered that musical support for dying patients and prepare of religious man as needed were low mean of scores, but others items remained high mean of scores .
- 3- There were a significant relationships between the nurses in providing nursing care to dying patients and their level of education, years of experience.

Recommendations:

Based on such findings the researcher recommends the following:

1. Training programs should be applied included spiritual support to the dying patients within religious beliefs.
2. Further studies can be conducted on large number of nurses depended on observational methods for future planning of such care.

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