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ORIGINAL STUDY

Evaluation of Nursing Care Documentation and Administration at Emergency Unite: Comparative Study

Ali Refak Lazem ^{a,*}, Huda Baker Hassan ^b^a Department of Adult Nursing, College of Nursing, University of Baghdad, Thi-Qar, Iraq^b Department of Adult Nursing, College of Nursing, University of Baghdad, Baghdad, Iraq**ABSTRACT**

Objectives: To evaluate of nursing care documentation and administration at emergency unite, and find the relationship between Nursing care documentation and administration and demographic characteristic of nurses.

Method: An Observational design study was conducted from the 25 December 2023 to 30 April 2024. The study setting was conducted at the emergency department in Al-Hussein Teaching Hospital, Al-shatra General Hospital in Dhi-Qar governorate/Iraq. Study Sample A convenient sample (non-probability) involving (103 nurses:60 in Al-Hussien Hospital and 43 in Al-Shatra Hospital). The practices were evaluated by using the self-report questionnaire and observational checklist. The data analysis through descriptive and interferential statistics and SPSS (version 23).

Results: Most of the participants in the study were male from al-shastra Hospital and female from al-Hussein Hospital, aged (20–25) years with an institute degree in nursing, and have a (1–5) year period of work expertise in an emergency. That the nurse documentation and administration in emergency units for nurses by the researcher and co-researcher was low level in Al-Shatra Hospital and moderate level in Al-Hussein Hospital.

Conclusions: The study concluded that the nurse documentation and administration in emergency units for nurses by the researcher and co-researcher was low level in Al-Shatra Hospital and moderate level in Al-Hussein Hospital.

Recommendations: The recommended enrolling nurses for training course and continuing follow up for nursing competency.

Keywords: Nursing documentation, Administration, Nurses, Emergency

1. Introduction

Nurses constitute the most broad group of health-care workers in hospitals [1]. Nursing is currently regarded as the most significant profession in health-care [2]. Nurses have a crucial impact on the world's health [3]. Because most patient contact occurs with nurses [4].

Nursing documentation is a responsibility that encompasses every level of nursing practice. Clear communication is a crucial and fundamental skill required for effective collaboration among healthcare workers from different disciplines [5, 6]. Therefore,

Nursing documentation is a comprehensive record of the patient's condition and the results of their care. It is a crucial responsibility for nurses to facilitate effective communication among patients, their families, other nurses, and health care providers from many disciplines. Documentation should possess clarity, simplicity, and legibility and demonstrate the evidence of critical thinking [7] so that Documentation can facilitate audit and research and provide information to evaluate the effectiveness of patient care. Nursing records should be objective and accurate enough to withstand scrutiny in a lawsuit, because it is considered legal documents [8].

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Patient care continuity and legal purposes require thorough medical documentation, especially nursing documentation. A systematic nursing process includes assessment, problem identification, goal setting, intervention formulation, and execution. Nursing documentation, vital since Florence Nightingale, provides continuity of care and legal evidence in modern healthcare [9]. Documentation is important to provide patients with safe and quality nursing care. Furthermore, nursing documentation also serves as the indicator of service quality, a database for research purposes or evidence-based policymaking, and evidence of responsibility and accountability of nurses. High-quality nursing documentation promotes structured, consistent, and effective communication between facilitating continuity of care, patient safety, and caregivers [10].

2. Methods

2.1. Design

An Observational design study was conducted from 25 December 2023 to 30 April 2024. The study setting was conducted at the emergency department in Al-Hussein Teaching Hospital, Al-Shatra General Hospital in Dhi-Qar governorate/Iraq. Study Sample A convenient sample (non-probability) involving (103 nurses:60 in Al-Hussien Hospital and 43 in Al-Shatra Hospital) working as emergency nurses. Ethical consideration the study respondent gave their written agreement to the nurses after the College of Nursing Council at the University of Baghdad and the Ethical Research Committee accepted it.

2.2. Study instrument

Two tools were used for data collection in this study:

- 1) A demographic data questionnaire created for this study by researchers obtained information about the nurse's sociodemographic characteristics.
- 2) The Arabic Nurse Professional Competence-Short Version Scale (NPC-SV-A): Transcultural Translation and Adaptation with a Cohort of Saudi Nursing Students used After obtaining permission from the author [11] to evaluate nurse competence in emergency units.

2.3. Data collection

Part I: Nurses' socio-demographic Characteristics by self-report questionnaires. Part II: The data was

collected through the observational checklist (instrument), which was used by the researcher and co-researcher to evaluate the nurses' practices; these practices were observed without knowing from nurses. The scale included 6 domains containing 35 items. Each item was scored by Likert score and grand (1-5) at 5 as "outstanding," 4 as "commendable," 3 as "satisfactory," 2 as "needs improvement," and 1 as "unsatisfactory".

2.4. Statistical analysis

The data of the present study was analyzed by application of SPSS 23: Statistical Package for Social Sciences by using descriptive (F, %, Mean of Score, and SD) and inferential statistics (Pearson Correlation) analytical methods Two-tailed p.05 was used as the threshold for statistical significance.

2.5. Results

Table 1: Table 1 presented the nurses characteristics of Al-shatra Hospital which of the majority of participating at age groups (20-25) years old which of 44.2%. Most of them was male which of 53.5%. 72.1% of them graduated from Nursing institute graduates. A high of them working at evening shift at which of 58.1%. The years of experience in nursing was more than half (1-5 years) which of 51.2%, and their experience in the emergency unit was (1-5 years) which of 67.4%, and 88.4% of them participation in training courses, 78.9% of them have (1-5) number of course While at Al-Hussein Teaching Hospital Shows in this table that the majority of participating at age groups (20-25) which of 56.7%. Most was female at a rate of 58.3% high of them graduated from Nursing institute graduates which of 81.7%. A high percentage of them works at morning shift which of 51.7%. The years of experience in nursing was more than half (1-5 years) which of 75.0%, and their experience in the emergency unit was (1-5 years) which of 86.7%. 63.3% of them participation in training courses, 100.0% of them (1-5) number of course.

Table 2 Demonstrates in Al-Shatra Hospital the nurse practices in the emergency unit regarding Nursing care documentation & administration at is low level, and in Al-Hussein Hospital the nurse practices in the emergency unit regarding Nursing care documentation & administration at is moderate level.

Table 3 revealed that there no significant relationship between Nursing care documentation and administration by nurses and their sociodemographic characteristics at $P \geq 0.05$ value.

Table 1. Distribution of sociodemographic characteristics for the researcher in Al-Shatra hospital and Al-Hussein hospital for study sample.

Variables	Classification	Al-Shatra hospital		Al-Hussein hospital	
		F	%	F	%
1 Age/Years	20–25	19	44.2	34	56.7
	26–30	15	34.9	20	33.3
	31–35	1	2.3	4	6.7
	36–40	3	7.0		
	40–45	3	7.0	1	1.7
	46–50	2	4.6	1	1.7
Mean ± SD		29.72 ± 8.15		26.13 ± 5.33	
2 Sex	Male	23	53.5	25	41.7
	Female	20	46.5	35	58.3
3 Level of Education	Nursing institute graduate	31	72.1	49	81.7
	Nursing college graduate	12	27.9	11	18.3
4 Working hours	Morning shift	18	41.9	31	51.7
	Evening shift	25	58.1	29	48.3
5 Year of experiences in nursing	1–5 years	22	51.2	45	75.0
	6–10 years	8	18.6	13	21.7
	11–15 years	8	18.6	1	1.7
	16 y and more	5	11.6	1	1.7
6 Year of experiences in the emergency unit	1–5 years	29	67.4	52	86.7
	6–10 years	8	18.6	7	11.7
	11–15 years	3	7.0		
	16–20 years	3	7.0	1	1.7
	21 y and more				
7 Participation in courses	Yes	38	88.4	38	63.3
	No	5	11.6	22	36.7
8 Number of courses	1–5	30	78.9	38	100.0
	6–10	6	15.8		
	11–15	2	5.3		
		38	100.0	38	100.0

Table 2. Evaluation researcher, co-researcher observation in Al-Shatra hospital and Al-Hussein hospital for of measurement regarding nurse's practices in emergency unite.

No	Nurse practices in emergency unit & administration	Researcher Al-Shatra hospital			Co-researcher Al-Shatra hospital			Researcher Al-Hussien hospital			Co-researcher Al-Hussein hospital		
		Mean	S/D	Eval	Mean	S/D	Eval	Mean	S/D	Eval	Mean	S/D	Eval
22	Make use of relevant data in patient records	2.04	0.974	M	2.16	.88	M	1.88	0.825	M	1.95	.909	M
23	Use information technology as a support in nursing care	1.04	0.213	L	1.02	.15	L	1.05	0.219	L	1.05	.219	L
24	Document according to current legislation	2.27	0.881	M	2.37	.82	M	2.23	0.945	M	1.86	1.032	M
25	Comply with current legislation and routines	2.25	0.847	M	2.32	.81	M	2.23	0.870	M	2.10	.969	M
26	Handle sensitive personal data in a safe way	1.79	1.081	M	1.69	.96	L	1.90	0.752	M	1.81	.676	M
27	Observe work-related risks and prevent them	1.51	0.827	L	1.39	.69	L	2.06	0.841	M	1.80	.839	M
28	Continuously engage in professional development	1.20	0.514	L	1.25	.58	L	1.21	0.454	L	1.60	.693	L
29	Lead and develop health staff teams	1.34	0.719	L	1.30	.599	L	1.60	0.785	L	1.68	.791	L
	Total	1.68	0.76	L	1.69	0.69	L	1.77	0.71	M	1.73	0.77	M

>1.6 Low level, 1.7–3.2 Moderate level, and 3.3–5 Good level.

Table 3. Relationship between for nurse's practices in emergency units and their level of education, working hours for nurses in the emergency unit, number of years of service in nursing, number of years working in the emergency unit, and training for Al-Shatra hospital.

		Level of educated	Working time	Year of experiences in nursing	Years of experiences in emergency	Participation in training courses	Nursing care documentation & administration
Level of education	Pearson Correlation	1	-0.208	0.102	0.091	-0.226	0.003
	Sig. (2 tailed)		0.181	0.515	0.560	0.146	0.987 NS
	N	43	43	43	43	43	43
Working hours	Pearson Correlation	-0.208	1	-0.030	0.138	0.308	0.014
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.181		0.851	0.378	0.045	0.931 NS
	N	43	43	43	43	43	43
Year of experiences in nursing	Pearson Correlation	0.102	-0.030	1	0.799	-0.239	0.015
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.515	0.851		0.000	0.123	0.922 NS
	N	43	43	43	43	43	43
Years experiences in emergency	Pearson Correlation	0.091	0.138	0.799	1	-0.216	-0.171
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.560	0.378	0.000		0.164	0.272 NS
	N	43	43	43	43	43	43
Participation in training courses	Pearson Correlation	-0.226	0.308*	-0.239	-0.216	1	-0.170
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.146	0.045	0.123	0.164		0.277 NS
	N	43	43	43	43	43	43

Significance: $P \geq 0.05$ value.**Table 4.** Relationship between for nurse's practices in emergency units and their level of education, working hours for nurses in the emergency unit, number of years of service in nursing, number of years working in the emergency unit, and training for Al-husseini hospital.

		Level of education	Working time	Year of experiences in nursing	Years of experiences in emergency	Participation in courses training	Nursing care documentation & administration
Level of education	Pearson Correlation	1	0.059	-0.022	-0.073	0.176	-0.065
	Sig. (2 tailed)		0.655	0.867	0.577	0.179	0.620 NS
	N	60	60	60	60	60	60
Working hours	Pearson Correlation	0.059	1	0.359	0.148	0.371	-0.117
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.655		0.005	0.260	0.003	0.372 NS
	N	60	60	60	60	60	60
Year of experiences in nursing	Pearson Correlation	-0.022	0.359	1	0.815	0.142	0.147
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.867	0.005		0.000	0.280	0.262 NS
	N	60	60	60	60	60	60
Years Experiences in emergency	Pearson Correlation	-0.073	0.148	0.815	1	0.024	0.324*
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.577	0.260	0.000		0.858	0.012 HS
	N	60	60	60	60	60	60
Participation in training courses	Pearson Correlation	0.176	0.371	0.142	0.024	1	-0.053
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.179	0.003	0.280	0.858		0.689 NS
	N	60	60	60	60	60	60

Significance: $P \geq 0.05$ value.

Table 4 revealed that there no significant relationship between nursing documentation and administration by nurses and Level of education, working hours, Year of experiences in nursing, participation in training courses while there were significant relationship nursing documentation and administration between by nurses and their year of experiences in emergency at $P \geq 0.05$ value.

3. Discussion

Nurses play a vital role in the healthcare system, and their clinical competency is of utmost importance, especially in emergency departments. There is close relationship between the competence of nurses and the quality-of-care Present study conducted in two hospitals to evaluate the nurse's competency

through the standard scale, the sociodemographic characteristics of the study sample was a high of the nursing staff at age group (20–25 years), in Al-Shatrah Hospital, and Al Hussein Hospital. These results are agreed with a study conducted in Iran which evaluate the clinical competence of new nurses working in emergency department on 119 nurses they founded that 60.9% at age below 30 years old [12] while [13] presented in their study in Ghana through the self-assessment competences on 109 nurses that the high of nurses who working in emergency unit at 30–39 years old [13].

The current study revealed that the high of the nursing staff were male, which of 53.3% in Al-Shatra Hospital, and female, which 58.3%, in Al-Hussein Hospital. These agreed with a study conducted in Iraq on Nurse's Knowledge about Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation in critical care unit on 50 nurses they founded that 54% of the respondents were women [14].

The current study revealed that most of the nursing staff are graduates from nursing institutes, which of 72.1% for Al-Shatra Hospital and 81.7% for Al-Hussein Hospital. These results are not agreement with a study conducted in Iraq at intensive care unit on 60 nurses. They founded 53% of the respondents was graduates from nursing colleges [15]. Regarding the working shift the current study showed that the high of nursing staff had the evening shift, at a rate of 58.1% for Al-Shatrah Hospital, and the morning shift, at a rate of 51.7% for Al-Hussein Hospital. These results are agreed with a study conducted in Iraq to Nurses Practices in Critical Units on 32 nurses their results revealed that 59.4% at night shift [16].

Regarding the years of service in nursing. The results of the current study revealed that the high of the nurses have (1–5 years), which of 51.2% for Al-Shatra Hospital and a rate of 75% for Al-Hussein Hospital. These results are agreed with a study conducted in Iraq to evaluating the knowledge and performance of nurses regarding physical restraint in critical care units on 50 nurses. They founded that 60% of respondents had less than five years of nursing service [17]. Regarding the number of years of experience in the emergency unit. The current study revealed that the high of the nurses have (1–5 years) which of 29% for Shatra Hospital and 52% for Al-Hussein Hospital. These results are agreed with a study conducted in Iraq, which found that 44% of respondents (1–5 years) of experience in the emergency unit [18].

Regarding the participation in a training course. The current study revealed that the high of nursing staff answered (yes), at a rate of 88.4% for Al-Shatra Hospital and at a rate of 63.3% for Al-Hussein Hospital. These results an agreed with a study conducted

in Iraq to Protective Health Behaviors among Critical Care Nurses on 100 nurses was founded said (yes), 71.9% of respondents training courses [19], and an agreed with a study conducted in Iraq to Nurses Knowledge toward Essential Care for Adult Patients Undergoing Mechanical Ventilation at Critical Care Unit on 50 nurses was founded said (yes), 56% of respondents training courses [20].

The results of the data analysis are shown in [Table 2](#). The current Study evaluate the practice nurse competency concerning nursing documentation and administration of nurses the study found that the nurses practice was moderate level in Al-Hussein Hospital and low level in Al-shatra Hospital. This finding was a similar of the result the study which conducted in Iraq to evaluate the practices of nurses for diabetic foot, their result revealed that the nurses practice was moderate level [21], and agree with other studies conducted in Iraq about the Assessment of Nurse Documentation for Nursing Care found poor levels of documentation for nursing care [22].

The results of [Table 3](#) revealed that there no significant relationship between Nursing care documentation and administration by nurses and their sociodemographic characteristics. The results of [Table 4](#) revealed that there no significant relationship between nursing documentation and administration by nurses and Level of education, Working hours, Year of experiences in nursing, participation in training courses while there were significant relationship nursing documentation and administration between by nurses and their year of experiences in emergency. This result agrees with the study conducted in Iraq that showed no significant association between the nursing documentation for nursing care with Level of education, Working hours, Year of experiences in nursing, participation in training courses [22], and agree with another study conducted in Iraq showed no significant association between the nurse practice with Level of education, Working hours, Year of experiences in nursing, participation in training courses [23], and regarding the Al-hussein Hospital significant with experience in emergency units this finding agrees with study conducted in Iran which a significant relationship between the mean Clinical performance score with work experience, and work experience within intensive care unit, emergency [24].

4. Conclusion

The result the study concluded that the nurse's documentation and administration in emergency unite for patient was low level in Al-Shatra Hospital

and moderate level in Al-Hussein Hospital, And no significant relationship between Nursing care documentation and administration by nurses and their sociodemographic characteristics in Al-Shatra Hospital. And no significant relationship between nursing documentation and administration by nurses and Level of education, working hours, Year of experiences in nursing, participation in training courses while there were significant relationship nursing documentation and administration between by nurses and their year of experiences in emergency in Al-Hussein Teaching Hospital.

Recommendations

The researchers recommended to enrolled nurses for training course and continues follow up for nursing competency.

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