

“GREEK NURSING STUDENTS’ ATTITUDE TOWARDS PATIENT SAFETY”

Background

Patient safety represents the foundation of quality health care. Today healthcare organizations face many challenges in maintaining and promoting safe care for patients due to the lack of resources, the increasing demand for care, technological developments and changing population demographics. Despite these challenges, the patient safety should be considered an issue for which the health care systems must commit to it ensure for all their patients [1].

Patient safety according to the WHO deals with the reduction and prevention of all conditions that may appear harmful and painful for patients during their care [2]. Chatzi and Malliarou state that patient safety is the condition in which harm to patients by nursing practice is eliminated or reduced to the extent possible through a continuous process of identifying adverse effects [3]. This proposed definition includes three axes: (1) What is harm for them patients, (2) How can this harm be eliminated or reduced, and (3) What are the areas of nursing practice recognized to provide the opportunity to harm patients

Aim(s)

The investigation of Greek nursing students' attitudes towards patient safety.

Methods

To collect the data, a qualitative study was conducted using semi-structured interviews. The sample of the study consisted of five 1st and five 4th year students of the Nursing Department of the University of Thessaly. Recorded, face-to-face, semi-structured interviews were carried out. Each interview lasted an average of 15 minutes. The interview questions were as follows: 1. What does the term "patient safety" mean to you? 2. What factors do you consider affect patient safety? 3. Could you share your experience of learning patient safety and the provision of safe care during duration of your training (in the classroom and clinical area)? 4. How do you think your curriculum can prepare you to deliver safe care in practice? 5. How important do you consider error and adverse events reporting? What factors affect reporting error?

Results

Greek Nursing Students underlined that patient safety is everything that nurses do in order not to do harm and provide healthcare in a safe way. Factors that affect patient safety can be categorized to organizational and human. Most of the 4th year students had experienced themselves doing some errors that had no serious impact on patient but revealed the importance of reporting them. Clinical Instructors had an important role in the provision of safe care during labs and clinical training. 4th year students were able to identify which aspects of the curriculum were preparing them better for safe care provision than 1st year students. Both 1st and 4th year nursing students considered really important error and adverse event reporting and they considered labeling of incompetence the most important factor for not reporting them. Greek nursing students' attitude towards patient safety is a matter of great importance as they admit their concern of not doing any harm to patients during their clinical training due to their lack of experience.

Discussion

The role of a clinical instructor is central to the learning process of nursing students as they form a role model for nursing students in the time of their clinical practice. Patient Safety issues should be a clear identifiable part of undergraduate nursing curriculum.

Implications and future perspectives

Future perspective of research should be done after the integration and evaluation of patient safety knowledge and competencies in nursing practice.

References

1. International Council of Nurses. THE ICN CODE OF ETHICS FOR NURSES. International Council of Nurses. Geneva, Switzerland, 2012
2. World Health Organisation. "Patient safety curriculum guide: multi professional edition", World Health Organisation, 2011.
3. Chatzi, A, Malliarou, M. (2023). The need for a nursing specific patient safety definition, a viewpoint paper. International Journal of Health Governance, 28 (2), 108-116, 2023.