Exploring Knowledge and Perception of Palliative Care Among Nurses Working in the Acute Care Setting

PRESENTER: Natalie Bastien, DNP, ARNP

Objectives

- Explores knowledge and perception among nurses working in the acute care setting.
- Evaluates if palliative care education intervention influenced the knowledge and perception of registered nurses (RNs) regarding palliative care.

Methods

- Utilized a thirty-minute slide presentation "Introduction to Palliative Care.
- Presented the slide presentation to 30 registered nurses (RNs) in the ICU in a metropolitan hospital.
- Participants responded to 20 questions pretest and posttest from the validated Palliative Care Quiz for Nursing PCQN, Table 2, (Ross, McDonald, & Guiness, 1996), before and after the study intervention slide presentation.
- The format of the tool was modified in the format of a Likert-Scale.

Background

- Palliative care constitutes an integral component of managing patients with health conditions and illnesses.
- National and international hospital systems have developed, and continue to employ, specialized palliative care teams to facilitate the delivery of palliative care (Beckstrand, Moore, Callister, & Blond, 2009).
- The growing number of people seeking palliative care makes it impossible for PC teams to engage in patients needing palliative care.
- The preceding challenge underscores the necessity of engaging all nursing staff in delivery of palliative care.

Results: Implications:

- Nurses play a critical role providing palliative care throughout the various disease stages even after the patient dies.
- The lack of adequate knowledge is a significant obstacle to nurses as they endeavor to deliver high-quality palliative care.
- Nurses an other clinicians are inadequately prepared to provide optimal palliative care (Prompholchai, Namatam, and Kongswan, 2011).
- The perception of nurses influence the application of palliative care.

Findings demonstrated that nurses had limited knowledge of palliative care

- Findings concur with previous reports of nurses' inadequate knowledge in multiple issues regarding palliative care.
- Findings suggest a need for nurses to enhance their knowledge and perception of palliative care.
- Findings demonstrated clinical significance and demonstrated at least half of the nurses have good knowledge about palliative care.
- Participants are principally conversant with effective management of pain, which they cited as the cornerstone of palliative care.
- Referral of palliative care emerged as a significant indicator of nurses' knowledge and perception regarding palliative care.
- Nurses identified the palliative educational intervention as a fundamental boost to their level of knowledge and perception of palliative care.
- 91.3% of the participants supported the implementation of the educational program to deliver high quality palliative care.

Conclusion

- Among Nurses Working in the Acute Care Setting
- Exploring Knowledge and Perception of Palliative Care
- Exploring the Perception of Palliative Care Among Nurses Working in the Acute Care Setting

Abstract

The significant increase in global population, coupled with improved life expectancy means that the number of people in need of palliative care will continue to grow steadily. However, most nurses are not prepared adequately to provide quality palliative care services. The purpose of this study was to determine whether registered nurses' knowledge and perceptions of palliative care influences the utilization of palliative care services in acute care settings. The research employed an experimental quantitative pilot study design with a pre and post survey. The study included a purposive sample of 30 registered nurses working in an acute care settings (ICU). The nurses completed the Palliative Care Quiz for Nurses (PCQN) questionnaire before and after watching a slide presentation (educational intervention).

The findings of this study have shown that at least half of the nurses have good knowledge about palliative care. The referral of patients to palliative care emerged as a significant indicator of nurses' knowledge and perception regarding palliative care. On the other hand, the nurses identified palliative care educational intervention as a fundamental boost to their level of knowledge. The overall knowledge of nurses regarding palliative care is poor, as documented by this study and findings from previous investigations. This study has established the need of further education and in-service training to enhance nurses' level of knowledge and attitudes toward palliative care.

Table 2

<table>
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<th>Posttest</th>
<th>Z-value</th>
<th>P-value</th>
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</thead>
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<td>34.5</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>0.073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B: Extent...</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>44.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>C: Adjunct...</td>
<td>34.5</td>
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<td>D: Individuals...</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>44.8</td>
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<td>0.073</td>
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<tr>
<td>E: Men generally reconcile...</td>
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Table 3

EXPLORING THE PERCEPTION OF PALLIATIVE CARE AMONG NURSES WORKING IN THE ACUTE SETTING (ICU)

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References:

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