

Nursing Interns' Methods for Avoiding Medical Errors: A Qualitative Content Analysis

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Abstracts

Clinical training presents significant obstacles and stress for nursing interns. Finding efficient methods to cut down on medical errors can enhance student performance and lower patient risk and error-related injuries. Finding ways for nursing interns at medical universities in Sistan and Baluchistan, in southeast Iran, to avoid medical errors was the aim of this study. Methods: A content analysis approach is being used in this qualitative study. The study employed purposive sampling. Three medical universities participated in the study. In this study, ten nursing interns took part. Nursing interns' experiences with methods to avoid medical errors during their internship were investigated through open-ended, semi-structured, in-person interviews. Conclusions: Several tactics must be used both before and during a nursing internship to prevent medical errors. Retraining and preparatory courses for difficult subjects, performance evaluations, and embracing students as members of the healthcare team while upholding their rights and valuing and supporting them are all examples of error prevention techniques. During the internship, the curriculum should include learning from medical errors as well as analyzing and reflecting on them.

Keywords: Medical errors, Nursing Interns, Qualitative study, Student.

1. Introduction

It is acknowledged that nursing is a crucial practice-oriented profession for enhancing societal health. People who are competent, qualified, and informed are needed by society. In this way, the goal of nursing education is to produce qualified human resources to satisfy societal demands. Accordingly, training competent and qualified nurses is the main responsibility of nursing schools. There are two components to the educational program in this field: theoretical training and practical training. Students can apply their theoretical knowledge in real-world settings and gain more experience and skills through clinical training. An internship is a crucial

component of nursing education because it serves as a bridge between the classroom and the clinical setting. It gives nursing students a chance to put their knowledge to use in clinical settings (Ma F, 2018).

Through internships, students develop their professional identities and become more independent, self-assured, and self-efficacious. The quantity and quality of medical services, and consequently the health of society, are impacted by the shortcomings, insufficiencies, and shortcomings in the field of clinical education. Patient care and safety standards are a significant and well-known indicator of the caliber of nursing and medical services. Errors are not only the biggest threat to patient safety but are also regarded as a key sign of the caliber of care, making patient safety a top priority in the healthcare system. When giving patient care, members of the medical team may make mistakes. Although these mistakes can be made in a number of healthcare occupations, nurses are more likely than other healthcare (Pedregosa, 2020; Abdel, 2021).

These mistakes can lead to patient harm or even death and can happen at any point during the patient-related process. Therefore, lowering unneeded and unavoidable errors is essential to creating a safe medical service delivery system and raising the standard of care in medical facilities. Medical errors happen when a healthcare professional fails to treat a patient appropriately or fails to take the required steps, which can cause harm, injury, or even death. Errors have detrimental effects that include higher patient mortality, lengthier hospital stays, higher expenses, discontent, and diminished systemic trust (Hu S, 2022).

Finding efficient ways to cut down on mistakes can enhance student performance while lowering the possibility of mistakes causing patient harm. Medication errors, medication administration, and even nurses' or students' efforts to prevent medication errors have all been the subject of numerous studies. However, little research has been done on how nursing interns with varying working environments can prevent medical errors (Vaismoradi, 2020).

Professional Acceptance and Support of Nursing interns in the Clinical:

Interns are prone to mistakes because of the demanding clinical setting and working conditions. Nonetheless, there is an obvious link between nursing student training and the actual workplace. The current study introduced six strategies. The first is treating students as coworkers and participants in patient care while maintaining professional acceptance and support for nursing interns in the clinical setting, all without infringing on their rights. The first step to reaching your career goals is getting accepted into a professional program (Hesselsm 2020; Ammouri, 2015).

Clinical instructors can significantly influence students' learning and experiences, including those pertaining to medical errors, by fostering an attitude of acceptance, respect, and trust. defending and upholding students' rights reduces the possibility of clinical errors and acts as a barrier against oppression and abuse of them. A supportive educational system must be advantageous to students. These nursing students must receive clinical training in a supportive setting if they are to succeed as nurses (Wang, 2020).

Additionally, it has been noted that clinical staff support plays a significant role in students' learning. Another way to help students in challenging clinical settings is through clinical supervision, which was also mentioned in the current study as a way to lower medical errors. According to the current study, inadequate supervision and assessment procedures may be a factor in nursing interns' medical errors.

Since clinical training is a crucial component of nursing education and internships allow students to apply their theoretical knowledge, this training course must be supervised. Better clinical skills, the success of clinical education, student professionalization, personal and professional growth, and the globalization of the nursing profession are all linked to clinical training supervision. It serves as a link between theory and clinical practice and a way to demonstrate clinical competency. The most crucial element in clinical centers' success is the high caliber of nursing student supervision. Learning and professional performance may suffer as a result of changes in students' behavior and performance in the classroom. For this reason, it's critical to keep a close eye on clinical education to help students get clinical (Bam, 2021; Wondmienieh, 2020).

Take Retraining Courses for Challenging Skills.

The students stated that in order to prevent medical errors, it is crucial to review complex skills prior to beginning an internship. Training courses in difficult skills like pharmacology, prescription reading, cardiac care, and ECG interpretation must be finished before an internship. Because not all of the theoretical material they have learned can be used in practice, students face challenges during the pre-internship phase. discovered that reducing medication errors during internships was achieved by allocating more time for reviewing medication information and calculations (Abry, 2022; Wang, 2020).

The value of effective communication in the clinical setting has been brought up by nursing students. Giving nursing students the chance to interact with nurses is one method of preventing mistakes.

Students' learning progress may be negatively impacted by instructors' lack of support and poor interpersonal communication with clinical staff. Two elements are linked to patient safety and reducing medical errors: effective communication and teamwork (Abdel Wahab, 2021).

2. Recommendations:

The health infrastructure in southeast Iran, where this study was carried out, is underdeveloped and confronts numerous obstacles. Gaining insight from the experiences of students at various universities can help pinpoint tactics and safeguards in this situation and serve as a foundation for improved future planning. However, the generalizability of the data is frequently limited by the study context and qualitative research.

1. In order to prevent clinical errors, healthcare institutions must make sure that students have access to professional support and basic social facilities.

2. Reducing medical errors in the clinical setting can be achieved by organizing the pre-internship phase to empower students in challenging and challenging areas of study.
3. To avoid medical errors, it is crucial to monitor students' performance in multiple ways and provide them with support.

3. Conclusion:

In Conclusion, The study's findings demonstrate the need for distinct approaches both prior to and during a nursing internship in order to prevent medical errors. Programs for education and infrastructure are examples of error prevention techniques. Students must be trained both theoretically and practically, and their performance must be assessed in accordance with recognized scientific standards. Retraining and preparatory courses in more challenging subjects, like pharmacology, cardiac care, and ECG interpretation, must be finished prior to beginning the internship. Respecting and defending the rights of students can result from accepting them as future nurses and members of the healthcare team. Additionally, the job description and the student's position at the medical centers must be clearly defined while taking into account their fundamental needs and rights. It is essential to be permitted to learn from medical errors while the intern is working with clinical instructors at the patient's bedside. During the internship, students should be able to analyze and reflect on their mistakes in addition to working to become experts in nursing care.

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