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EDITORIAL

PATIENT SAFETY AND QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDED

RESEARCH ARTICLES

WHAT IS STRESS IN EPILEPSY? A CONTENT ANALYSIS AND AN OPEN LETTER TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO): HIGHLY TIME TO DEFINE STRESS

THE EFFICACY OF A SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED PRINTED MATERIAL ON SATISFACTION FROM INFORMATION PROVISION AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF HEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION PATIENTS: A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

THE INFLUENCE OF CANNED LAUGHTER IN THE SENSE OF HUMOR OF HEALTHY GREEK ADULTS. A PILOT STUDY WITH DEBATABLE RESULTS.

A STUDY OF THE BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION OF PATIENTS WITH MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION SIX MONTHS AFTER THEIR DISCHARGE FROM THE CARDIAC CARE UNIT

HIGH-VS MEDIUM-FREQUENCY NEUROMUSCULAR ELECTRICAL STIMULATION PROTOCOLS ON MUSCLE MASS IN INTENSIVE CARE UNIT PATIENTS, A PILOT STUDY

SYSTEMIC REVIEW

FREQUENCY OF NURSING STUDENT MEDICATION ERRORS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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Patient safety and quality of Health Care Provided

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EDITORIAL ARTICLE

PATIENT SAFETY AND QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDED

A healthcare provider's primary goal is to implement strategies to prevent errors in patient care and build a culture of safety. The prevailing definition of patient safety is the prevention of harm to patients. There are various practices implemented in healthcare facilities to reduce adverse events associated with various medical and nursing procedures. Some of these are: the prevention of venous thromboembolism in high-risk patients, the implementation of all measures to prevent infections during central line (central venous catheter) insertion, appropriate antibiotic therapy in surgical patients, measures to prevent ventilator-associated pneumonia, and adequate feeding of patients.

In recent literature, a classification for patient safety concerns the definition of harms and their effect on the patient (temporary or permanent harm). The root causes of harm can be identified as: healthcare professional incorrect decision-making regarding organizational policies, procedures and protocols; Harm prevention measures can be implemented throughout the organization or selectively in certain high-risk areas.

Patient safety is a term connected with the quality of health care provided. Quality in turn concerns the best balance between the practices applied and a framework of rules and values. It shows the extent to which services and people increase their effectiveness.

In the international literature, various quality safety models are mentioned, such as the prevention of medication errors and the prevention of patient falls. The critical point in nursing care is nurse's ability to coordinate and integrate the various aspects of quality of care. Adequate nursing staffing is associated with decreased complications and reduced mortality. Another important point between the relationship of nursing care and patient safety is the professional role of nurses regarding the care they provide, surveillance and prevention of adverse events.

At the same time, the international literature examines the role of communication between members of the health care team in relation to patient safety. Patient safety is the cornerstone of high quality healthcare; many researches defining patient safety and harm prevention practices has focused on negative outcomes of care, such as mortality and morbidity. Nurses are a critical link between surveillance and implementation of preventive measures in order to reduce negative patient outcomes.

Evidence-based practice is an important approach which solves the problems arising from various adverse events, increase patient safety, improve clinical outcomes, and reduce healthcare costs. The implementation of evidence-based nursing is considered best practice in health care services by achieving improvement in patient benefits and care outcomes. Nurses as health professionals must contribute to the integration of all research data into nursing practice to implement evidence-based nursing. Nurses' beliefs about the value of evidence-based nursing practice, trust, team cohesion, leadership support, and job satisfaction are closely related to the implementation of evidence-based nursing.

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