



Nurse Practice Environment and its relationship to Unfinished Nursing Care

Author: Zeleníková, R.¹, Jarošová, D.¹, Mynaříková E.², Plevová I.¹, & Janíková E.¹

Institution:

¹Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

²University Hospital Ostrava, Czech Republic

Format & Type

Oral, Scientific

Background

The nursing practice environment is commonly defined as the organizational characteristics of a work setting that facilitate or constrain professional nursing practice. Nurse practice environment influence nursing practice and may be contributing factor to unfinished nursing care.

Research Question / Aim

The aim of the study was to find out the association between nurse practice environment and unfinished nursing care.

Method / Procedure

Study design: Cross-sectional study. Setting: Czech acute care hospitals. Participants: Sample consisted 805 hospital nurses from 14 acute care hospitals in the Czech Republic. Eligibility criteria: hospital nurses engaged in direct patient care working at Czech hospitals. Convenience sampling was used. The primary outcome of this study was perception of nurse practice environment measured by Practice Environment Scale of the Nursing Work Index (PES-NWI). PES-NWI contains 31 items in five subscales. Items are rated on a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). Higher scores indicate greater agreement that organizational characteristics are present. Values above 2.5 indicate general agreement and values below 2.5 indicate disagreement that the characteristics measured by the scales are present. The other outcome was perception of unfinished nursing care measured by Perceived Implicit Rationing of Nursing Care (PIRNCA) was used. PIRNCA consisted of 31 items of activities nursing care assessed on the scale from 1 (never) to 4 (often). Data were collected from September 2019 till November 2019 using paper and pencil questionnaire. Statistical methods: The Mann-Whitney statistical test was used to assess differences in perception of unfinished nursing care according nurse practice environment. Spearman correlation coefficient was used to find out association between subscales of PES-NWI and PIRNCA.

Results

Participants: Average age of nurses was 39.6 years. Main results: Mean score of four subscales of PES-NWI was higher than 2.5 suggesting that the nursing work environment was favourable. The mean score of only one of the five subscales (Staffing and resource adequacy) was below 2.5. Statistically significant differences in rating perception of unfinished nursing care according nurse practice environment were found in four subscales and in total score of PES-NWI. Negative correlations were found between subscales of nurse practice environment and overall score of PIRNCA. The strongest negative correlation was found between total score of PIRNCA and subscale Staffing and resource adequacy (-0,398). The worse nurses rated subscale Staffing and resource adequacy, the more often they stated unfinished care. Statistically significant differences were found in rating unfinished nursing care in relation to nursing working environment (<0,001). Nurses who rated subscales of working environment as favourable also stated statistically significantly less unfinished nursing care.

Discussion

Better professional environment may be connected with less unfinished nursing care. In addition, better professional environment may attract nurses more easily, may retain the staff or may attract or retain more qualified staff.



COMPETENCE NETWORK
HEALTH WORKFORCE

Conclusion

In studied research sample the nurse practice environment was evaluated as favourable. Furthermore, nurse practice environment has influence on unfinished nursing care. Acknowledgement: Supported by Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic, grant nr. NV18-09-00420. All rights reserved.