

## Impact of an Educational Program upon Academic Nurses' Practice Concerning Documentation of Nursing Sheets in the Medical and Surgical Teaching Hospitals of Sulaimani Governorate

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### الخلاصة

الهدف: تهدف الدراسة إلى تحديد تأثير برنامج تثقيفي على معلومات الممرضات الجامعيات باتجاه تدوين المعلومات الخاصة باستمارة التمريض وإيجاد العلاقة بين معلومات الممرضات والخصائص الديموغرافية التي تشمل العمر، الجنس، وعدد سنوات الخبرة في الردهات الباطنية والجراحية. المنهجية: دراسة شبه تجريبية أجريت في المستشفيات التعليمية الباطنية والجراحية في محافظة السليمانية، بدأت الدراسة في بداية آذار إلى نهاية مايس ٢٠٢٧. لإنجاز أهداف الدراسة اختيرت عينة غرضية "احتمالية" مكونة من (٢٥) ممرضة جامعية يعملن في المستشفيات المذكورة أعلاه. جمعت البيانات من خلال استمارة استبائية صممت لهذا الغرض مكونة من (١٩) فقرة تشمل المعلومات الديموغرافية وكذلك معلومات عن التدوين التمريضي. ولصدق الأداة، تم عرضها على (١٤) خبير، ثم تم تحديد ثبات الأداة من خلال الاختبار وإعادة الاختبار باستعمال معامل بيرسون وكان  $r = 0.86$  تم تحليل المعلومات باستخدام التحليل الوصفي وكذلك التحليل الاستنتاجي. النتائج: بينت نتائج الدراسة بأن البرنامج التثقيفي له تأثير ايجابي على معلومات الممرضات الجامعيات باتجاه تدوين المعلومات الخاصة باستمارة المريض. التوصيات: استنادا إلى نتائج الدراسة، أوصى الباحث بتشجيع الممرضات الجامعيات على القيام ببرامج تثقيفية للممرضات ذوات المستوى العلمي الأقل بغية تطوير المستوى العلمي لهن وبالتالي تطوير نوعية العناية في المستشفيات، كذلك أوصت الدراسة بشمول الممرضات في اختصاصات أخرى يمثل هكذا برامج.

### Abstract

**Objectives:** The study objectives are to determine the impact of education program upon the academic nurses' practice concerning documentation of nursing sheets, and to find out the relationship between nurses knowledge and their demographic characteristics, which include age, sex, and years of experience in medical and surgical wards.

**Methodology:** A quasi- experimental study was carried out at the medical and surgical wards in teaching hospitals in Sulaimani governorate from the beginning of March up to June 2007. To reach the objectives of the study anon-probability (purposive) sample of (25) academic nurses who work in the medical and surgical wards in teaching hospitals. The data were collected through the use of constructed questionnaire, which comprised of demographic information and scientific knowledge concerning nursing documentation which include (19) items. The reliability of the instrument was determined through test-retest, (0.86) and the validity through a panel of 14 experts. The data were analyzed through the application of descriptive statistical analysis and the application of inferential statistical analysis.

**Results:** The results of the study indicated that the educational program had appositve impact on the knowledge of the academic nurses towards documentation of nursing sheets.

**Recommendations:** Based on the results of the study, the investigator recommended that academic nurses who are working in the teaching hospitals should be encouraged to participate in educational programs and present it to the nurses who have minimum level of knowledge in order to improve their level of knowledge, which improve quality of care in the hospitals. Furthermore, the study recommended that a specific educational programs should be designed to other nurses in other nursing specialties.

**Key Words:** Educational Program, Academic Nurses' Practices, Documentation of Nursing Sheets,

### Introduction

Documentation is any thing written or printed that is a record or proof of activities, or process of adding written information to the chart. 140 years ago, Florence Nightingale recognizes the need for comprehensive nursing documentation. However, as nursing has amore complex matter than putting quill to report book.

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### Principles of Legally Correct Documentation:

The low demands that are recorded relating to the provision of medical and nursing care satisfy certain essential principles.

- ♦ Documentation of nursing care should be completed contemporaneously with, or at the time of the care that was provided or the incident that occurred.
- ♦ The records should be factual, and nurses should avoid making assumptions or writing long entries about general discussions they have had with their clients.
- ♦ If the nurse expresses an opinion in the nursing progress notes, it should be made clear whose opinion it is.
- ♦ The language used should not be unnecessarily emotive.
- ♦ Records should be legible; written in ink, signed and dated by the author and unlettered. If alterations are required, the correction should be made by crossing through and initialing the error (2).

A medical record should furnish all health care providers with a concise, accurate, written picture of a patient's medical and nursing problems, care planned and given, and the patient's response to treatments.

A nurse must understand how to use records effectively and efficiently.

Documenting involve recording the interventions carried out to meet the patient's needs. It is essential when charting interventions to document the type of interventions, the time care was rendered and the signature of the person providing care 8»

It is critical that the patients' progress be documented in a systematic way. Many documentation methods are used depending on personal preference and agency policy. Methods of documentation include SOAR charting, Clinical pathways, FOCUS charting, and computer-based charting (3).

There are three major reasons why nurses and other health professional document their work:

- 1) They are legally required to do so.
2. The documentation communicates information about what they do.
3. The documentation conveys relevant information within a system with implications for the service as a whole.

The information nurses collect and document about patients with illness may be overlooked if it is not presented clearly simply presented items, such as temperature chart are easily interpreted and constantly consulted. The same should be the case with assessment tools, especially if they are used as screening instruments. It is hoped that the instruments selected for discussion may provide nurses with easy-to-use tools which increase their assessment skills and improve communication of vital information among health professionals (4).

### Methodology

A quasi-experimental study (5) was conducted determine the impact of education program upon the academic nurses' practice concerning documentation of nursing sheets, and to find out the relationship between nurses knowledge and their demographic characteristics, which include age, sex, and years of experience in medical and surgical wards. A pre-test and post-test approach was applied for the study group. This study started from March 2007 up to June 2007. The study was conducted at the medical and surgical teaching hospitals in Sulaimani governorate.

A purposive "non-probability" sample of (25) academic nurse which represented (100%) of target population of academic nurses in these hospitals. Data were collected through the utilization of a constructed questionnaire by using interview technique with the experts and

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academic nurses, and the lectures presented to them by pre-post technique. The questionnaire included the demographic information, and knowledge concerning documentation in deferent medical and surgical specialties. The Program is consisted of Part one which clarifies deferent procedures in medical and surgical nursing specialties for the academic nurses. Part two which teach them how to document these procedures and Part three which clarifies the role of nurse concerning documentation.

The questionnaire items were measured on a three point type Likert scale as (know, little know, don't know) and rated as (3 for know, 2 for little know, and 1 for don't know) (6). Data were analyzed by using Descriptive data analysis that includes frequencies and percentages, and mean of score, and Inferential statistics which include severity, and chi-square.

### **Results:**

**Table 1:** Distribution of demographic information of the study sample.

<b>Variables</b>		<b>f</b>	<b>O/</b>
<b>Age</b>	20-29	22	88
	30-39	3	12
	Total	25	100
<b>Sex</b>	Female	25	100
	Total	25	100
<b>Years of Experience</b>	Less than 1 year	20	80
	More than 1 year and less than 2 year	5	20
	Total	25	100

**f= frequencies, % = percentage**

This table reveals that the study group were females (100%), (88%) of them was (20-30) years old and (12%) was (30-39) years old, and (80%) of them has less than 1 year experience and (20%) have between (1-2) years experience.



**Table 2:** Frequency, percentage, and mean of score for the study group concerning knowledge towards documentation

No.	Dimensions of knowledge and its documentation	Pre-test								Post-test							
		I know		Little know		I don't know		M.S	Severity	I know		Little know		I don't know		M.S	Severity
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
1	Vital signs	25	100	0	0	0	0	3.0	H	25	100	0	0	0	0	3.0	11
2	Pain assessment	18	72	5	20	2	8	2.64	H	17	68	6	24	2	8	2.6	H
3	Pain scale	2	8	8	32	15	60	1.48	L	16	64	6	24	3	12	2.52	11
4	Edema assessment	5	20	10	40	10	40	1.8	M	15	60	6	24	4	16	2.44	M
5	Edema scale	3	12	8	32	14	56	1.56	M	12	48	8	32	5	20	2.28	M
6	Eluid balance	5	20	3	12	17	68	1.52	M	17	68	5	20	3	12	2.56	11
7	Type of cast	2	8	10	40	13	52	1.56	M	14	56	6	24	5	20	2.36	M
8	S & S of infection	14	56	6	24	5	20	2.36	11	19	76	5	20	1	4	2.72	11
9	Skin traction	4	16	7	28	14	56	1.6	L	17	68	6	24	2	8	2.6	11
10	Skeletal traction	3	12	5	20	17	68	1.44	L	18	72	5	20	2	8	2.64	H
11	Range of motion (ROM)	8	32	6	24	11	44	1.88	M	15	60	5	20	5	20	2.4	M
12	Passive motion	5	20	12	48	8	32	1.88	M	18	72	4	16	3	12	2.6	11
13	Active motion	4	16	13	52	8	32	1.84	M	16	64	7	28	2	8	2.56	H
14	Anatomy of joints of the body	10	40	10	40	5	20	2.2	M	12	68	8	32	5	20	2.28	M
15	Six rights of drug administration	14	56	6	24	5	20	2.36	M	20	80	4	16	1	4	2.76	11
16	Cranial nerves	2	8	13	52	10	40	1.68	M	6	24	8	32	11	44	1.8	M
17	C.O.S	2	8	7	28	16	64	1.44	L	12	48	7	28	6	24	2.24	M
18	Voiding disorders	5	20	8	32	12	48	1.72	M	9	36	8	32	8	32	2.04	M
19	Skin condition & type of discoloration	4	16	8	32	13	52	1.64	M	19	76	4	16	2	8	2.68	11

M.S = mean of scores

This table demonstrates the pre-test present the mean of the scores for academic nurse's knowledge concerning documentation, which has presented low score for the items (3,4,9,10,17) and moderates items (5,6,7,11,12,13,14,15,16,18, and 19) and highs items (1,2,8), while for post test items are moderates items (4,5,7,11,14,16,17,18) and highs on the remaining items.

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**Table 3:** Association between nurse's knowledge and their age in pre-test at the study group

Age	Poor		Fair		Good		Total	
	f	o/p	f	%	f	O	f	%
20-29	4	16	13	52	5	20	22	88
30-39	0	0	1	4	2	8	3	12
Total	4	16	14	56	7	28	25	100
2005.- 2.66 df=2 $\chi^2_{crit.}=5.99$ • 0.05								

df= degree of freedom, f= frequency, o/p probability level,  $\chi^2$  crit critical chi-square  
 $\chi^2_{obs.}$ : observed chi-square

This table indicated that there is no significant association between nurse's knowledge and their age in pre-test at the study group.

**Table 4:** Association between nurse's knowledge and their age in post-test at the study group

Age	Poor		Fair		Good		Total	
	f	O/p	f	O	f	o/p	f	O/p
20-29	2	8	2	8	18	72	22	88
30.39	0	0	0	0	3	12	3	12
Total	2	8	2	8	21	84	25	100
$\chi^2_{obs.}:0.64$ $\chi^2_{crit.}=5.99$ [20.05								

df: degree of freedom, f= frequency, o/p probability level,  $\chi^2$  crit.: critical chi-square  
 $\chi^2_{obs.}$ : observed chi-square

This table indicated that there is no significant association between nurse's knowledge and their age in post-test at the study group (**Poor:** 19-31.66, **Fair:** 31.67-44.33, **Good:** 44.34-57).

**Table 5.** Association between nurse's knowledge and their years of experience in pre-test at the study group

Years of experience	Poor		Fair		Good		Total	
	f	O/p	f	o/p	f	O	f	O/p
Less than year	2	8	2	8	18	72	22	88
More than year	0	0	0	0	3	12	3	12
Total	2	8	2	8	21	84	25	100
$\chi^2_{obs.}=0.64$ df=2 $\chi^2_{crit.}=5.99$ • 0.05								

df: degree of freedom, f= frequency, p: probability level,  $\chi^2$  crit.: critical chi-square  
 $\chi^2_{obs.}$ : observed chi-square

Table (5) indicated that there is no significant association between nurse's knowledge and their years of experience in post-test at the study group (**Poor:** 19-31.66, **Fair:** 31.67-44.33, **Good:** 44.34-5).



**Table 6:** Association between Nurse's Knowledge and their Years of Experience in Post-test at the Study Group.

Years of experience	Poor		Fair		Good		Total	
	f	O	f	O/	f	O/	f	00
Less than year	4	16	14	56	4	16	22	88
More than year	0	0	0	0	3	12	3	12
Total	4	16	14	56	7	28	25	100
$\chi^2_{obs.} = 8.74$ $df = 2$ $\chi^2_{crit.} = 5.99$ $P > 0.05$								

df= degree of freedom, f= frequency, P= probability level,  $\chi^2_{crit.}$ = critical chi-square  
 $\chi^2_{obs.}$ = observed chi-square

This table indicated that there is a significant association between nurse's knowledge and their years of experience in pre-test at the study group.

**Discussion:**

Throughout the course of the data analysis, the findings indicated that the majority of the study group was female (100%), with age less than 30 years (88%), (12%) of them was more than (30) years and less than (40) years of age has been.

Because the college of nursing at the University of Sulaimani established recently, so most of the graduate nurses are still in residency period, which means that they have no more experience. The majority of years of experience was less than (1 year) (80%), (Table 1).

Regarding the nurse's knowledge concerning documentation, the analysis of the data in pre-test had indicated that there were low score findings (not adequate knowledge) regarding the items (3, 4, 9, 10, and item 17) (Table 2).

Because they have no experience in different nursing specialties, while educational program increase their knowledge concerning documentation these items has become high and moderate post-test. Documentation is part of the implementation of the nursing process (7).

The findings in the same table shows that there are no low score of severity in post-test, that's means that the educational program has a good impact towards documentation of nursing sheets.

Relative to the relationship between nurses' knowledge and their ages, the findings of the study revealed that there is no significant association between nurses' knowledge and their ages in pre-test as well as post-test (Tables 3, 4).

On the other hand, the findings of the present study show that there is no significant association between nurses' knowledge and their years of experience in pre-test (Table 5).

While, there is a significant relationship between nurses' knowledge and their years of experience in post test, (Table 6). That's explaining the deficit of knowledge concerning documentation for the study group in pre-test approach (8,9).

**Recommendations:**

The study recommended that further education program should be done to the minimum educational level of nurses in the teaching hospitals, academic nurses should be encouraged to participate in educational programs that are designed and presented to the nurses who have minimum level of knowledge in order to improve their level of knowledge and improve quality of care, and that specific educational programs should be designed highly need for newly graduated and in other nursing specialties.

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