

POSTER PRESENTATION

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Assessment of the views of intensive care nurses about the effect of patient visiting hours on patients and nursing care

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Introduction

Policies of visiting in intensive care units effect both patients care and nursing care.

Objective

This study aims to assess views of intensive care nurses about the effect of patient visiting hours on patients and nursing care.

Methods

A data gathering questionnaire consisting of 20 questions has been used in this descriptive research. Among the nurses working in the departments of medical and surgical intensive care units of a teaching and research hospital, the ones who have given their consents has been included in the study.

Results

120 nurses who are working at medical and surgical intensive care units have been included in the study. Mean age for the nurses is 29 ± 5.7 and 82.5% of them have bachelor's degrees. All the nurses participating in the study stated that patient visiting hours are not completely flexible and individual, age and time constrictions do exist. 88.3% of the nurses stated that they take isolation precautions for the visitors when the visitors are in the intensive care unit. 92.3% of the medical intensive care nurses and 52% of the surgical intensive care nurses see the patient visiting hours as a source of stress. Furthermore, 52.3% of the nurses with 1 to 5 years of ICU work time, 61% of the nurses with 6 to 10 years of ICU work time, 61.4% of the nurses with

11 to 15 years of ICU work time and 87.5% of the nurses with more than 15 years of ICU work time states that patient visiting hours increase their work load. Statistically this is significant. 57% of the nurses consider the visiting hours as having a negative impact on the nursing care given to the patients. About the appropriate visiting hours, 10% of the nurses state that as long as full isolation precautions are applied there should be no restrictions, 89.2% of the nurses state that time, individual and age restrictions should be applied, and 0.8% of the nurses state that it should be severely restricted and a rigid observation of rules should be applied.

Conclusions

Although, intensive care nurses state that, patient visiting hours are a source of stress for them, increase their workload and negatively affect the quality of the nursing care most of them, they suggested that visits should be continued with brief interviews.

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