ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Evaluation of Nurses' Skills about Management of Psychiatric Patients in Emergency Unit

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ABSTRACT

Background: The emergency department (ED) is a health-care location where patients receive treatment for a range of diseases, including life-threatening crises, acute sickness and injury, and chronic-condition problems. Emergency departments (EDs) have the responsibility of providing safe emergency health care to everyone who require it in a compassionate and cost-effective manner

Material and Method: A descriptive analytic design was conducted on Evaluation of Nurses' Skills about Management of Psychiatric Patients in Emergency Unit in Babylon governorate for the period of (December 12th, 2021 to march 14th, 2022). The study instrument was designed to meet the objectives of the current study, which was consisting of two parts: the first part includes the demographic data for nurses; the second part includes the Skills management Scale 37 items (SPSD).

Results: The results showed that nurses are young with age (27.89±6.291 year) in which 75.8% of them are seen with age group of 20-29 year. The analysis of skill in this study showed that nurses have fair level of skills as seen among 78.8% and 17.4% among nurse have poor level of skills and 3.8% among nurse have good level of skill.

Conclusion: The study concluded that most nurses have a fair level of skills ' about the treatment of psychiatric disorders at emergency units.

Keywords: Evaluation, of Nurses' skills, Management, Psychiatric, Emergency Unit

INTRODUCTION

The emergency department (ED) is a health-care location where patients receive treatment for a range of diseases, including life-threatening crises, acute sickness and injury, and chronic-condition problems (Skinner et al., 2006). Emergency departments (EDs) have the responsibility of providing safe emergency health care to everyone who require it in a compassionate and cost-effective manner (Andersson et al., 2014; Kobusingye et al., 2005).

Nurses in emergency rooms are presumed to have the skills to distinguish psychological symptoms from physical symptoms (Wilsey et al., 2008). Therefore, it is important, emergency service workers must be knowledgeable and skilled in a variety of areas, including evaluating these patients physiologically and psychosocially, ensuring that they receive appropriate medical treatment and health care, anticipating potential risks, creating a safe environment, and crisis management (Antai-Otong, 2009; Clarke et al., 2006; McDonough et al., 2004).

Suicidal conduct, severe depressive or manic episodes, self-mutilation, highly impaired judgment, extreme self-neglect, substance intoxication or abstinence crises, and aggressive agitation are among the most common mental emergencies (Baldaçara et al., 2019). Nurses in the emergency department are well trained to care for patients with acute physical ailments and emergencies; nevertheless, they lack the necessary training and confidence to care for psychiatric patients (Perrone McIntosh, 2021).

As a result, people with mental illnesses who go to the emergency room get care that is historically centered on a medical approach, which also has a different view of rehabilitation (Marynowski-Traczyk et al., 2017). For reasons like as lack of access to local doctors and no cost to the patient, the Emergency departments is frequently used by the general public for non-urgent presentations(NSW Department of Health, 2007).

According to studies conducted with emergency service nurses working in general hospital emergency rooms, they had a lot of trouble evaluating and caring for patients in mental distress (Clarke et al., 2006; Kerrison & Chapman, 2007; Sungur, 2009). Patients who visit emergency rooms because they are in mental disorders have reported having difficulty accessing health care services, being stigmatized, facing increased risks related to patient safety, having lower patient satisfaction (Antai-Otong, 2009;

Broadbent et al., 2002; Büyükbayram et al., 2018; Clarke et al., 2007; Wand & Happell, 2001).

MATERIAL AND METHOD

A descriptive analytic design was conducted on measurement of the Nurses' Knowledge and Skills regarding management of psychiatric disorders at emergency units in Babylon governorate for the period of (December 12th, 2021 to march 14th, 2022).

After signing the protocol from the College of Nursing / University of Baghdad, the approval of the Ministry of Planning - the Central Statistical Organization was taken. Then the approval of the ethical committee was taken in the college.

The study instrument was designed to meet the objectives of the current study, which was consisting of two parts: the first part includes the covering letter, demographic data for nurses; the second part includes the Skills management Scale 37 items (SPSD) Likert Scale was used Content validity of questionnaire was done by expert of panel and the reliability was conducted by internal consistency method (AlShibi & Hamdan-Mansour, 2020).

This study was conducted in teaching hospitals in the province of Babylon, which are the hospitals that are considered in the center of the governorate, and most patients visit them for the purpose of treatment for the period from December 12th, 2021 to February 12th, 2022 .A non-probability, purposive sample of (268) nurses working in emergency units in hospitals (Marjan medical city hospital, Al-Hilla teaching hospital and Al-Imam Al-Sadiq Teaching Hospital) was intentionally selected in Babylon Governorate, and the sample was subjected through a structure of interview self-report between the researcher and the nurses. 256 nurses participated in filling out the forms from 268 nurses, where 2 forms were neglected due to their incompleteness, and 10 nurses did not want to fill out the forms.

Inclusion Criteria: All nurses working in emergency unit, Nurses who are working during day and night shift and the Exclusion Criteria: Nurses who refused to participate in the study, Nurses who do not work in emergency units.

RESULTS

This table indicates that nurses have fair level of skills about management of psychiatric disorders as seen among 78.8%.

Table 1: Distribution of nurses According to their Socio-demographic Characteristics

List	Characteristics		f	%
1	Age M±SD= 27.89±6.291	< 20 year	1	.4
		20 – 21 year	179	75.8
		30 – 39 year	41	17.4
		40 – 49 year	11	4.7
		50 ≤ year	4	1.7
		Total	236	100
2	Gender	Male	110	46.6
		Female	126	53.4
		Total	236	100
3	Nursing qualification	Middle/secondary school	62	26.3
		Diploma	114	48.3
		Bachelor	60	25.4
		Total	236	100
4	Having experience in psychiatric nursing?	Yes	147	62.3
		No	89	37.7
		Total	236	100
5	Participated in psychiatric training course?	Yes	27	11.4
		No	209	88.6
		Total	236	100
6	Years of experience in nursing M±SD= 6.52±6.304	< 1 year	24	10.2
		1 – 5 years	113	47.9
		6 – 10 years	58	24.6
		11 – 15 year	23	9.7
		16 – 20 year	8	3.4
		21 ≤ year	10	4.2
		Total	236	100
7	Years of experience in emergency units M±SD= 3.22±4.225	< 1 year	57	24.2
		1 – 5 years	139	58.9
		6 – 10 years	24	10.2
		11 – 15 year	5	2.1
		16 – 20 year	7	3
		21 ≤ year	4	1.7
		Total	236	100

f: Frequency, %: Percentage, M: Mean, SD: Standard deviation

Table 4-5: Overall Assessment of Nurses' Skills about Management of Psychiatric Disorder in Emergency Units

skills	f	%	M	SD
Poor	41	17.4		
Fair	186	78.8	51.43	13.268
Good	9	3.8		
Total	236	100		

f: Frequency, %: Percentage M: Mean for total score, SD: Standard Deviation for total score Poor= 0 – 37, Fair= 38 – 74, Good= 75 - 111
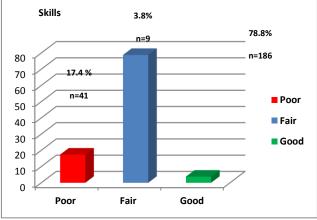

Figure 1: Overall Skills among Nurses (N=236)

This figure reveals that 78.8% of nurses show fair level of skill.

DISCUSSION

Table (1). Show The sample for this study consisted of (95%) nurses who agreed to participate in this study, as shown in the table (4-1). The descriptive analysis of sociodemographic variables showed that nurses are young with age of 20-29 year. This result is closed to the result of Morphet et al., (2012) who was reported that almost of sample of his study was with age (18-30) years.

Regarding gender of nurses, it showed that more than half of them are females working in emergency units. The large number of nurse's staff was almost for female, as well as registration in nursing middle schools for females only, and the rate of acceptance in the study of institutes and colleges for females is lower than for males. A study revealed by Holmberg et al., (2020) that almost of sample was female where she was (64%) and male (35%). In addition, the authors Jayabharathi et al., (2019) refer to the sample was female (88%) and male was (12%). Also Melo et al., (2016) agree with this result Women's domination appears as an essential trait highlighted in nursing practice that reflects the profession's history. Females continue to be the majority gender in the nursing profession, according to gender ratios (Phukubye et al., 2021).

The nursing qualification for nurses who are working in emergency units refers that high percentage seen with a diploma in nursing, approximately quadrant of them are with bachelor's degree and remaining are graduated from middle or secondary school. This result is close to study of Jayabharathi et al., (2019) which found (55%) of nurses in the study has diploma in nursing.

The finding regarding experience in psychiatric nursing refers that 62.3% of nurses have experience in psychiatric nursing. The study revealed they participated in psychiatric training course in addition some of nurses are graduated with Bachelor degree in nursing.

The nurses who participated in training courses related to psychiatric nursing were 11.4% of the nurses. This result is close to that of Al-Shaibi and Hamdan Mansour (2020), where his study indicated that approximately (17) percent of the nurses who participated in training courses on psychiatric nursing. And the authors Jayabharathi et al., (2019) found (7%) of nurses part participated in training courses on psychiatric nursing

The years of nursing experience in emergency units refers to 1-5 years of nursing experience. This finding may because of the continuous transfer of nursing staff from the emergency units and their unwillingness to stay in the emergency unit.

The analysis of practices in this study showed that nurses have fair level of skills about management of psychiatric disorders as seen among 78.8% and 17.4% among nurse have poor level of skills and 3.8% among nurse have good level of skill. The assessment of each skill in the scale revealed that nurses are with fair level of skill as indicated by the mean scores among all items. The study see the reason behind these results that nurses in emergency units are familiar with common emergency cases rather than psychiatric emergencies cases due to lack of the last cases in the emergency room, and most of nurses are confused when interacting with the patient who admitted with psychiatric problem . Another explanation that the nurses were engaged in many knowledge courses rather that training courses. A study found supportive evidence by Sivakumar et al., (2011) who reported that nurses are associated with moderate mean score regarding skills. Additional support was found by Lopes et al., (2020) that emergency room nurses to be lacking in skills when dealing with patients with mental illness.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that the nurses have nurses have fair level of skills about management of psychiatric disorders in emergency units.

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