

Patients Reactions to Medical Errors in Hospitals: The Need for Social Workers in Nigeria

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Abstract : Medical error is on the increase in many nations and like many developing nations, Nigeria is not excluded and more importantly, Lafia, Nasarawa state, where the study was carried. The study was undertaken to explore Patients' knowledge and their reactions to medical errors in hospitals in Lafia Local Government Area; therefore, five objectives were formulated to guide the study. The survey research design was employed and triangulation of quantitative and qualitative instruments was used to collect data. The total population for the study was 330,712 and the sample size was 400; however, only 343 patients and three doctors responded to the quantitative and qualitative study, respectively. Frequency distribution, simple percentage, and r test were used to analyze the data obtained from respondents. The findings revealed that medical errors are prevalent in hospitals in Lafia and the patients are neither aware nor willing to report such occurrence. The study recommends that social workers, hospital management, and governments should take up their roles in reducing the occurrence of medical errors.

Keywords : health, hospital, medical errors, social work

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