

Assessment of Knowledge and Attitude towards End of Life Care among Nurses Working in Tertiary Hospital

Authors : Emni Omar Daw Hussin, Pathmawathi Subramanian, Wong Li Ping

Abstract : Background: To provide quality care at the end of life, nurses should possess knowledge and skills to provide effective end-of-life care, as well as develop the attitudes and interpersonal competence to provide compassionate care. Aim: This study aimed to assess nurses' knowledge and attitude towards end of life care and caring for terminal ill patients and to examine relationships among demographic variables and nurse's knowledge and attitudes toward end of life care and caring for terminal ill patients. Method: a cross-sectional study was conducted at 1 tertiary hospital located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Self-administrative questionnaire was used to collect data from 553 nurses from over all departments except emergency department, operation theater and outpatient clinic. Two tools were used in this study, the Frommelt's Attitude Toward Care of the Dying (FATCOD) Scale to assess the nurses' attitude and End of Life Knowledge Assessment to assess the nurses' knowledge. Result: the result of this study yielded that, the majority of participants (54.8%) and (54.4%) have less positive attitude and knowledge towards end of life care and caring for terminal ill patients respectively. As well as there is no significant relationship were found between nurses' ethnicity, religion, and the total score of FATCOD scale; End of Life Knowledge Assessment score. On other hand there is significant relationship among nurses' age, working experience, level of education, attending any post basic courses and the total score of both FATCOD scale and End of Life Knowledge Assessment. Conclusion: A lack of education and experience and post basic course about end of life care and palliative care may contribute to the negative attitudes and poor knowledge regarding end of life care. Providing sufficient courses about end of life care could enhance the nurses' knowledge towards end of life care, as well as providing a reflective narrative environment in which nurses can express their personal feelings about death and dying could be a potentially effective approach. Implication for Practice: This study elaborates the need for further research to develop an effective educational programs to enhance nurses' knowledge and to promote positive attitude towards death and dying, as well as enhance communication skills, and coping strategies.

Keywords : knowledge, attitude, nurse, end of life care

Conference Title : ICCNCC 2014 : International Conference on Cancer Nursing and Cancer Care

Conference Location : Bangkok, Thailand

Conference Dates : December 18-19, 2014