

Effects of Geriatric Training Program on RNs' Geriatric Care Competencies in Hospitals

Fang-Ru Yueh, MSN, RN

Department of Nursing, Department of Nursing, National Cheng Kung University Hospital, Tainan, Taiwan

Ying Ju Chang, PhD, RN

Department of Nursing, Institute of Allied Health Sciences, College of Medicine, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan, Tainan, Taiwan

Fang-Wen Hu, PhD, BS, RN

Department of Nursing, National Cheng Kung University Hospital, Tainan, Taiwan

Background: The health problems of hospitalized elderly patients are complicated. Nurses, as the core members of the geriatric interdisciplinary team, must have good geriatric care competencies so as to provide appropriate aged care services. However, to date, there is lack of geriatric training program for nurses in hospitals.

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to develop a geriatric training program for nurses in hospitals and to evaluate the effects of the training program.

Methods: The quasi-experimental research design was adopted. Nurses who had more 3 months' clinical experience and worked in the medical center in the southern Taiwan were included. The nurses in experimental group should receive geriatric training program; the nurses in control group were selected from the same unit by head nurse. The structured questionnaire was developed based on the literature review and validated through expert consensus, which included: demographic variables, variables related to nursing careers, geriatric educational variables, geriatric care knowledge scale, attitude toward geriatric care scale and self-reported geriatric care competency scale. The structured questionnaire was collected before training program. The self-reported geriatric care competency scale was measured after training program and six months after training program. Data were analyzed with independent-sample t test, chi-square test and repeat measure.

Results: A total of 124 nurses were included in the study (62 nurses for experimental group and 62 nurses for control group). There was no difference in baseline characteristics between experimental and control group. The geriatric care competencies in experimental group was improvement after training program (73.33 ± 8.01 v.s. 61.37 ± 12.77 , $p < .01$) and six months after training program (74.29 ± 9.72 v.s. 61.37 ± 12.77 , $p < .01$). However, there was not significant improvement between after training program and six months after training program ($p = .27$). Besides, the geriatric care competencies in control group was significant improvement between after training program and six months after training program (71.28 ± 9.12 v.s. 64.23 ± 11.20 , $p < .01$). However, there was not significant improvement after training program ($p = .15$).

Conclusion: This study showed geriatric care training program can improve nurses' geriatric care competencies not only in experimental group but also in control group. We suggest the educator in hospital should plan and provide geriatric training program in order to improve nurses' geriatric care competencies.

Title:

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Keywords:

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References:

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Abstract Summary:

The health problems of hospitalized elderly patients are complicated. However, there is lack of geriatric training program for nurses in hospitals. The study is to develop a geriatric training program and to evaluate the effects of the training program. This study showed geriatric care training program can improve nurses' geriatric care competencies.

Content Outline:

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First Primary Presenting Author

Primary Presenting Author

Fang-Ru Yueh, MSN, RN
Department of Nursing, National Cheng Kung University Hospital
Clinical Nurse
Yongkang Dist.
Tainan
Taiwan

Professional Experience: 2007 to 2011 - orthopedic ward, plastic surgery ward, and intensive care unit, Chang Gung Medical hospital, Taoyuan, Taiwan 2015.03.02 to present-orthopedic ward, National Cheng Kung University Hospital, Taiwan

Author Summary: I'm a registered nurse who work on orthopedic ward of medical centers. My research interests focus on clinical care and how to education patients achieving healthy promotion.

Second Author

Ying Ju Chang, PhD, RN
National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan
Department of Nursing, Institute of Allied Health Sciences, College of Medicine
Professor
Tainan
Taiwan

Professional Experience: 2002-present Associate professor, Department of Nursing, Medical college, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan, R.O.C 2004-2010. Associate director, Nursing Department, Cheng Kung University Hospital, Tainan, Taiwan, R.O.C. Research area and publications mainly on

developmental care and energy conservation of premature infants Responsible for curriculum design and education in evidence-based nursing

Author Summary: Ying-Ju Chang is a professor and also a director in department of nursing in National Cheng Kung University Hospital. Her previous studies focused on premature and maternal care. She also has profession in evidence based nursing. Recently, she turned to concentrate on geriatric nursing education and frailty.

Third Secondary Presenting Author

Corresponding Secondary Presenting Author

Fang-Wen Hu, PhD, BS, RN
National Cheng Kung University Hospital
Department of Nursing
Clinical Assistant Professor
East Dist.
Tainan City
Taiwan

Professional Experience: 2015-present Clinical Assistant Professor of department of nursing 2011-2015 --Candidate of PHD 2009-2011 -- post-graduate student 2003-2008-- registered nurse in Chi-mei medical Center, Tainan, Taiwan 2003-2008 -- RN

Author Summary: Fang-Wen Hu, is a clinical assistant professor in Department of Nursing National Cheng Kung University Hospital. Her studies focused on development protocols of urinary catheter insertion, delirium and functional decline in older adults. She also concentrates on geriatric nursing and nursing continuous education.