Effect of nursing students’ moral sensitivity and patient safety attitudes on their perceptions of open disclosure of patient safety incidents

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Clinical Issues

- Open disclosure includes expressing regret for what has happened, keeping the patient informed, and providing feedback on investigations and the steps taken to prevent a recurrence of the adverse event.
- Moral sensitivity and patient safety attitudes will be required in nurses when they make ethical decisions.
- Nursing students have to develop positive attitudes toward and capabilities for patient safety in health care.

Measures

- 407 undergraduates from four nursing universities
- Patient safety attitudes developed by Madigosky et al. (2008)
- Nurses’ perceptions of open disclosure of patient safety incidents based on Wagner et al. (2012) and Kadjian et al. (2007)

Table 1. Moral Sensitivity, Patient Safety Attitude Effects on Perceptions of Open Disclosure of Patient Safety Incidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Total perceptions of open disclosure</th>
<th>Open disclosure across harm levels</th>
<th>Open disclosure across situations</th>
<th>Justification of open disclosure</th>
<th>Negative consequences of open disclosure</th>
<th>Positive consequences of open disclosure</th>
<th>Facilitators of open disclosure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>β, R²</td>
<td>t, F (p)</td>
<td>β, R²</td>
<td>t, F (p)</td>
<td>β, R²</td>
<td>t, F (p)</td>
<td>β, R²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model 1</td>
<td>Moral sensitivity</td>
<td>0.099</td>
<td>0.003 (0.046)</td>
<td>-0.003</td>
<td>0.051 (0.960)</td>
<td>-0.037</td>
<td>0.684 (0.494)</td>
<td>0.116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient safety attitude</td>
<td>0.447</td>
<td>9.043 (&gt;0.001)</td>
<td>0.309</td>
<td>5.681 (&gt;0.001)</td>
<td>0.312</td>
<td>5.704 (&gt;0.001)</td>
<td>0.425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Model fit</td>
<td>0.253</td>
<td>27.090 (&gt;0.001)</td>
<td>0.206</td>
<td>11.149 (&gt;0.001)</td>
<td>0.087</td>
<td>19.275 (&gt;0.001)</td>
<td>0.256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model 2</td>
<td>Moral sensitivity</td>
<td>0.094</td>
<td>1.886 (0.060)</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>0.266 (0.701)</td>
<td>-0.120</td>
<td>-2.125 (0.034)</td>
<td>0.258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient safety attitude</td>
<td>0.445</td>
<td>8.933 (&gt;0.001)</td>
<td>0.304</td>
<td>5.613 (&gt;0.001)</td>
<td>-0.218</td>
<td>-2.306 (0.017)</td>
<td>0.147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Model fit</td>
<td>0.254</td>
<td>45.736 (&gt;0.001)</td>
<td>0.109</td>
<td>16.426 (&gt;0.001)</td>
<td>0.049</td>
<td>6.835 (&lt;0.001)</td>
<td>0.137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

- As moral sensitivity and patient safety attitudes increased, nursing students’ perceptions of open disclosure of patient safety incidents significantly increased.
- Controlling for gender, grade and satisfaction with major, the effect of patient safety attitudes was greater than that of moral sensitivity for all perceptions of open disclosure.

Implications

- Creating a positive patient safety culture that can alleviate the negative perceptions of open disclosure of structured patient safety education program that can develop positive attitudes toward patient safety is needed in the undergraduate curriculum
- It is needed to foster nursing students’ ability to communicate effectively with patients and caregivers in the event of a patient safety incident.