Nurses’ practices for alcohol problems

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Excessive alcohol use has been associated with health, social and legal problems. Helping health care providers to manage hazardous or harmful drinkers is an important worldwide issue.
Study Purposes

- To explore nurses’ practices for alcohol problems.
- To explore confidence, responsibilities, beliefs and knowledge about nurses’ practices for alcohol problems.
Study Purposes (con’t)

To explore the impact of nurses’ characteristics, personal experiences, confidence, responsibility, belief and knowledge on their practices for patients’ alcohol problems
Method

Design

Cross-sectional design was adopted using purposive sampling technique.
Method

Sample and Setting

A regional hospital in central Taiwan and a medical center hospital in southern Taiwan were used as study sites.
Method

Sample and Setting

Nurses who worked in these two hospitals and fulfilled the following criteria were enrolled:

(1) aged 18 years old or above with registered professional nurse certificate.
(2) working in clinical practice.
(3) willing to join the research and complete the questionnaire.
Method

Instruments

A structural questionnaire was used to collect data.

The questionnaire was based on literature review (Abiodun, 1991; Gossop & Birkin, 1994; O'Rourke et al., 2006; Vadlamudi, 2005) and clinical practice experience to design.
Method

Instruments (con’t)

It consists of six parts:

- Clinical practice- 8 items, score: 8-40
- Confidence- 8 items, score: 8-40
- Responsibilities- 8 items, score: 8-40
- Beliefs-16 items, score: 16-80
- Knowledge- (Multiple choice) 8 items, score: 0-8
- Demographics
## Data Analysis

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Statistical analysis</th>
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## Data Analysis (con’t)

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<tr>
<td>The impact of nurses’ characteristics, on their practices for patients’ alcohol problems</td>
<td>Kruskal-Wallis H Mann-Whitney U</td>
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<td>The impact of nurses’ characteristics, personal experiences, confidence, responsibility, belief and knowledge on their practices for patients’ alcohol problems</td>
<td>Hierarchical multiple regression</td>
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Results

Participants’ Characteristics

- A total of 172 nurses were participated in this study.
- Age - Mean = 29.5 (Range=21~47)
- Gender - Female 97.1%
- Educational level - 50% hold BS degree
Results

Participants’ Characteristics (con’t)

- Working unit-
  - Emergency department: 67.4%
  - Gastrointestinal ward: 22.1%
  - Psychiatry ward: 10.5%
Results

Participants’ Personal Experiences

- Attended alcohol training program in last year - Never : 90.6%; 1-2 hours : 8.8%

- Attended alcohol training class in school - Never : 66.3%; 1-10 hours : 32.5%
Results

Participants’ Personal Experiences (con’t)

- Attended alcohol training education in clinical practice –
  Never: 75.8%; 1-10 hours: 22.4%

- In your experiences, how many patients have alcohol problem? 53.8%
Results

Nurses’ Practices for Alcohol Problems

- The mean of nurses’ practices for alcohol problems score was 23.22 (SD=4.95).
- It revealed that few assessments, screening and referral of routine care for alcohol problems were performed.
- The top two lowest average scores were regarding to referral patients and use a structure questionnaire to assess patients’ alcohol problems.
Results

Confidence, Responsibilities, Beliefs and Knowledge about Nurses’ Practices for Alcohol Problems
Results

• **Confidence**

The mean score of nurses’ confidence for alcohol problems was 23.22 (SD=4.95), indicating most nurses did not have enough confidence to deal with patients’ alcohol problems, especially in referring patients and using a structure questionnaire to assess patients’ alcohol problems.
Results

• Responsibilities

The mean score of nurses’ responsibilities for alcohol problems was 20.84 (SD=5.22), indicating most nurses did not think it was their responsibilities to care of patients’ alcohol problems especially in using a structure questionnaire to assess and recording patients’ alcohol problems.
Results

• **Beliefs**

  The mean score of nurses’ beliefs for alcohol problems was 45.58 (SD=7.92), indicating most nurses did not think they could help patients for their alcohol problems, especially when they provided their intervention and referral.
Results

• Knowledge

- The correct rate of nurses’ knowledge for alcohol problems was 37.75%, indicating they did not have enough knowledge for alcohol problems.
Results

The Impact of Nurses’ Characteristics, Personal Experiences, Confidence, Responsibility, Belief and Knowledge on Their Practices for Patients’ Alcohol Problems
Their practices for alcohol problems scores were significantly differed by work unit ($\chi^2=22.82$, $p<0.05$).

In addition, nurses’ confidence ($r=.57$, $p<0.01$), responsibility ($r=.61$, $p<0.01$) and belief ($r=.18$, $p=0.02$) were significantly and positively correlated with the nurses’ practices for alcohol problems.
Results

• Finally, a hierarchical multiple regression was conducted to by entering nurses’ characteristics, personal experiences and confidence, responsibility, belief and knowledge.
These variables were found to contribute to 58% of the variation of nursing practices for patients’ alcohol problems, while work unit (gastroenterology medical unit, $\beta=.22$, $t=2.98$, $p<0.01$; psychology medical unit, $\beta=.14$, $t=1.73$, $p<0.01$), confidence ($\beta=.44$, $t=5.97$, $p<0.01$) and responsibility ($\beta=.33$, $t=4.00$, $p<0.01$) can be used as predicting factors.
Discussion

The study results showed that few assessments, screening and referral of routine care for alcohol problems were performed by nurses.

Moreover, nurses who worked in the emergency ward had fewer practices for patients’ alcohol problems than who worked in the psychology and gastroenterology medical units.
Discussion

Therefore, the authors suggest that different unit shall have different alcohol in-serve education for nurses.

In addition, nurses’ confidence and responsibility were significant predictors of their practice for alcohol problem. These two factors may be increased through education and training courses.
Thanks for your attention!

Welcome for your comments!