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The Effects of Nurse Practice Environment on Missed Nursing Care and Nurse-Perceived Patient Safety

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Purpose: Clinical unit system contextual factors such as nurse characteristics, nurse staffing, and nurse practice environment may have a considerable impact on the missed nursing care and patient safety (ref). Inadequate nurse practice environment has been reported to lead nurses to omit required nursing care and are assumed to play a causative role in patient safety hazard. However, scant research evidence has substantiated the links among these factors. This study was conducted to examine how nurse practice environment affected missed nursing care and nurse-perceived patient safety with nurse characteristics (ie, age, years of experience, and educational status) and nurse staffing among small and medium sized hospitals nurses in South Korea.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted with a convenience sample of 387 nurses from two small and medium sized hospitals in Ulsan, South Korea. A structured questionnaire that includes nurse characteristics (gender, age, education, working years, and position), number of patients per nurse in last shift, nurse practice environment scale, nurse-perceived patient safety scale, and missed nursing care scale was administered individually to the nurses. Ethics committee approval and institutional permissions were obtained and each participant provided written consent. Data analysis was based on descriptive statistics and multiple regression using SPSS 25.0 (IBM, Armonk, NY). Two-tailed P values <.05 were considered significant.

Results: The sample was primarily female (98%), and unmarried (69%). The mean age was 31.3 years (SD = 6.6 years), and more than 56% held baccalaureate degrees. On average, the nurses had 7.3 years (SD = 6.4) of working experience and were currently working as staff nurses with the (80%). The average nurse practice environment was 2.5±0.3 (100-point conversion, 62.5%). The average missed nursing care was 1.3±0.3 (100-point conversion, 32.5%). The average patient safety was 3.1±0.7 (100-point conversion, 62.0%). Multiple regression analysis showed that nurse practice environment ($\beta = -.183$) was negatively associated with missed nursing care. Nurse practice environment ($\beta = .256$) was positively associated with nurse-perceived patient safety.

Conclusion: The results of this study suggest that ensuring more favorable nurse practice environment is important to improve the safety of care and to reduce omission of required nursing care in hospital.

Title:

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Keywords:

Nurse practice environment, missed nursing care and patient safety

Abstract Summary:

This study was to understand more clearly about how nurse practice environment affected missed nursing care and nurse-perceived patient safety along with nurse characteristics in hospitals nurses in South Korea.

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