Factors Associated with Geriatric Care Competency for RNs in Acute Care Setting

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Learner Objectives: To identify the factors associated with geriatric care competencies.

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Background

• Health problems are complicated
• An individualized care plan should included
  – Comprehensive assessment
  – Interdisciplinary team
• Nurses are core members
  – Good geriatric care competencies
  – Provide appropriate services
Background

- Geriatric care competencies:
  - No related certification about
- Nurse competencies in hospital:
  - Rare

Aim

- To explore geriatric care competencies
- To identify the factors
  ✓ associated with geriatric care competencies
Design

• Descriptive correlational study
Method

• Quota sampling
• Population:
  – N=170
  – Nurses who look after patients aged 65+
  – Medical center in southern Taiwan
• Exclusion:
  – < 3 months of working experience
Method

• Subjective data collection:
  – Structured questionnaires
    ✓ Demographics variables
    ✓ Working condition
    ✓ Geriatric care educational condition
    ✓ Geriatric care knowledge scale
    ✓ Attitude toward geriatric care scale
    ✓ Self-reported geriatric care competency scale
Method

• Objective data collection:
  – Comprehensive geriatric assessment
    ✓ Confirm patients’ health problems
  – Comparing with problem lists
    ✓ Determine competencies of geriatric problem assessment
Result

- Nurses’ average age: 27.6 years old
- Working place
  - Medical wards: 42.9%
  - Surgical wards: 28.2%
  - Integrated wards or geriatric ward: 23.5%
Result

• Nurses’ clinical experience
  – Majority: <5 years (74.4%)
  – Second: 5 - 10 years (11.3%)
Result

• Subjectively
  – Geriatric care knowledge
    ✓ Average score = 86.08 ± 4.44
  – Geriatric care attitude
    ✓ Average score = 62.44 ± 5.28
  – Self-reported geriatric care competency
    ✓ Average score = 67.74 ± 8.84

• Objective geriatric care competencies
  – 17.6% nurses can assess healthy problem correctly
Result

• Univariate analysis showed significantly associated with self-reported geriatric care competency
  – Comfort of working environment
  – Satisfaction of working environment
  – Importance of working
  – Preference of working
  – Family support
  – Received geriatric care continuous education were
Result

• Linear regression analysis
  – Subjective care competencies
    ✓ Only showed significantly associated with higher self-reported geriatric care competencies is:
      Received geriatric care continuous education
Result

• Logistical regression analysis
  – Objective view of geriatric care competencies
    ✓ Nurses had better performances
      ✓ younger
      ✓ worked in internal unit
    ✓ Not showed statistical significance
Conclusion

• Nurses score high in the subjective tests
  – Geriatric care knowledge
  – Geriatric care Attitude
  – Geriatric care competencies

• Low score in objective measures
  – Only 17.6% test takers could accurately identify the needs of geriatric patients.

• The evidence Shows huge gap of geriatric care competencies between
  – Subjective perception
  – Reality objectively
Conclusion

• Nurses have high confidence in geriatric care subjectively
  – Accepted geriatric care continuous education

• But in objective measures
  – not a sizable improvement
Recommendation

• Key point to improve nurses’ geriatric care competences
  – How to shorten the gap
    • between academic and practice

• Our nursing education scholars
  – To reconsider the structure and objective of elderly care training courses