

Safe practice of nurses in developing countries: Challenges for the next 10 years

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REVIEW

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Introduction

The hospital, being a multifaceted institution encompassing healthcare, treatment, and education, is recognized as a complex environment. Within such a setting, the well-being and safety of patients are susceptible to potential impacts. Hence, the hospital diligently strives to enhance service safety, thereby safeguarding both patient health and safety, as well as bolstering public confidence in the healthcare system. Consequently, it can be asserted that any endeavours to improve and augment safety are indispensable. The secure performance of nurses emerges as a crucial challenge within the healthcare system of developing nations. Given that nurses constitute integral members of the healthcare team, their role in ensuring patient safety is of paramount importance. However, it is imperative to acknowledge that in the forthcoming era, marked by rapid advancements in legislative, technological, and social domains, novel challenges will inevitably arise concerning their secure operations^{1,2}.

While many of these challenges are contingent upon advancements and shifts in the realm of health and treatment, there may exist crucial future challenges that are presently unknown. Nevertheless, several key challenges that could potentially impact nurses and hospital safety in the future can be identified:

Progression of science and the rapid evolution of technology

As technology continues to advance within the healthcare domain, nurses must strive to acquire mastery over new technologies. This encompasses the utilization of electronic health record systems, robotics, artificial intelligence, and sensors. To effectively adapt to these technologies, nurses must undergo continuous training and empowerment. However, it is important to recognize that the complexity of technology may introduce new risks that necessitate the implementation of special safety measures.

Robot-human interaction

Robot-human interaction is poised to become increasingly prevalent in hospitals of the future. The integration of robots and artificial intelligence holds the potential for substantial advancements in patient safety and the reduction of medical errors. However, it is important to recognize that the necessity for human presence and direct communication with patients will remain paramount. Consequently, the challenge lies in achieving an optimal combination and seamless interaction between these two elements. Striking the right balance between technological advancements and human involvement will be essential in ensuring the highest quality of care and patient satisfaction.

Demographic changes

Demographic changes pose significant challenges in the healthcare sector, particularly in developing countries that will grapple with an aging population crisis in the upcoming decades. Concurrently, the rise in chronic diseases and the need for complex care exacerbate the demand for healthcare professionals. The lack of manpower in this sector emerges as one of the most pressing challenges, which can result in high workload, fatigue, and potential compromise of patient safety. It is imperative to address this challenge by implementing strategies to mitigate workload burden, ensuring adequate staffing levels, and prioritizing the well-being of healthcare professionals. By doing so, we can strive to maintain optimal patient safety and quality of care amidst evolving demographic trends.

Risk management

Risk management plays a crucial role in maintaining patient safety as healthcare systems grow increasingly complex. Nurses must possess a mastery of risk management techniques and methodologies to effectively navigate the challenges and risks inherent in delivering healthcare services. Through the acquisition of essential competencies and expertise, nurses empower themselves to proactively identify potential risks, implement preventive measures, and aptly respond to unforeseen hazards. This dedicated commitment to risk management serves as a testament to their unwavering dedication to upholding patient safety as the foremost priority within healthcare provision. Such a steadfast approach not only fosters optimal outcomes but also instills unwavering confidence in the healthcare system as a whole.

Growth of therapeutic tourism

The growth of therapeutic tourism necessitates that nurses possess the ability to effectively interact with patients from diverse backgrounds and cultures. This entails developing a comprehensive understanding of cultural beliefs and values, as well as honing skills in cultural translation and intercultural communication. By embracing cultural competence, nurses can foster meaningful connections with patients, ensuring that their unique needs and preferences are respected and accommodated. This commitment to intercultural understanding enhances the quality of care provided and promotes positive patient experiences within the context of therapeutic tourism.

Changes in laws and regulations

The advent of robots and artificial intelligence in the healthcare industry will invariably necessitate modifications to health and treatment laws and regulations. Consequently, it becomes crucial for nurses to remain well-informed about these evolving legal frameworks and proficiently apply them within their professional settings. By acquiring a comprehensive comprehension of the revised statutes and regulations, nurses can proficiently navigate the ethical and legal intricacies that arise in conjunction with the utilization of cutting-edge technologies. This commitment to compliance not only safeguards patient safety and privacy but also ensures that healthcare practices align with the evolving legal landscape, fostering trust and confidence in the healthcare system as a whole.

Data analysis

The utilization of data analysis in nursing decisions and enhancing patient safety holds immense significance. Nursing managers should possess a solid command of data analysis tools and techniques to effectively analyze and

utilize data. By harnessing the power of data, nursing managers can derive valuable insights, identify patterns, and make informed decisions to optimize patient care. This proficiency in data analysis empowers nursing managers to assess performance, identify areas for improvement, and implement evidence-based strategies that enhance patient safety and overall healthcare outcomes.

Indeed, the challenges highlighted emphasize the significance of nurses possessing a wide range of competencies, including technical skills, management acumen, and effective communication abilities. Moreover, continuous training and empowerment are crucial for nurses to stay abreast of advancements in the healthcare field and effectively tackle future challenges. Hospitals must prioritize various essential actions to ensure patient safety, such as regular monitoring and evaluation, establishing appropriate mechanisms, designing safe environments, and processes engineering. By embracing these measures, hospitals can collectively strive towards the shared objective of prioritizing patient safety as their primary focus.

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