Abstracts

The Experiences of Preceptors with New Graduate Nurses in Inpatient Units

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Background: To effectively retain and transition the new graduate nurse into the workforce, inpatient units rely heavily on the support and commitment of preceptors. While the preceptorship experience of new graduate nurses is greatly examined in the literature, little attention has been paid to understanding this process from the point of view of the preceptor.

Objective: This study sought to explore the experience of precepting newly minted professional nurses on medical-surgical units. By uncovering patterns across nurses’ experiences in navigating the preceptor role, this study aimed to raise the visibility of preceptors and their supportive needs around the preceptorship period.

Methods: For this qualitative descriptive study, semi-structured face-to-face interviews were conducted with ten nurse preceptors of a university teaching hospital in Montreal, Canada. Although this study sought to recruit participants from two medical and two surgical inpatient units, no surgical nurses expressed interest in participating.

Results: Findings indicate that the experience of precepting new graduate nurses is driven and shaped by an unvarying sense of accountability in the workplace. Preceptors are focused on ensuring the safety of patients, the new graduate nurse, and the unit by assuming concomitant roles. Nurses also report having to constantly adapt according to the neophyte’s confidence and competence. Preceptors also report navigating the role by relying on various sources of knowledge, namely their own experiences as new graduate nurses, their colleagues, and skills acquired beyond the nursing domain. Findings also indicate that precepting new graduate nurses prompts nurses to reflect upon their confidence and their competence in undertaking the role.

Conclusion: Findings from this study can be used to develop preceptor programs that enhance the preceptorship experience for preceptors and improve the onboarding process for both new graduate nurses and preceptors. This study also provides a starting point for critical reflection and discussion about the role of preceptorship in enhancing the professional identity of nurses.

Attitude towards Truth Telling About Diagnosis and Prognosis of Disease among Persons with Cancer

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Background: Truth telling regarding diagnosis and prognosis to persons with cancer is an important issue in clinical practice. Truth telling to patients is a challenge of health professionals, especially in family-oriented countries like Thailand. Understanding attitude of patients regarding truth telling is essential for improving quality of clinical practice.

Objective: This descriptive research aimed to examine attitude towards truth telling about diagnosis and prognosis among persons with cancer.

Methods: A purposive sample of 377 adult persons with cancer was recruited from a cancer hospital from March to May 2015. The attitude towards truth telling about diagnosis and prognosis questionnaire developed by the researcher was used to collect data. The questionnaire was composed of three components of attitude, namely cognitive, affective, and behavioral variables. Data were analyzed by using descriptive statistics.

Results: 1. Regarding attitude towards truth telling about diagnosis, 98.40% of the participants reported high level for total scores. Most participants also reported a high level of attitude in terms of cognitive (98.93%), affective (89.12%), and behavioral variables (96.29%). 2. For attitude towards truth telling about prognosis, 96.82% of the participants reported high level for total scores. Most participants reported a high level of attitude in terms of cognitive (96.29%), affective (82.76%), and behavioral variables (94.96%).

Conclusion: The findings of this study can contribute to our current understanding of attitude towards truth telling about diagnosis and prognosis of persons with cancer. The patients’ need and attitude regarding the disclosure of diagnosis and prognosis should be assessed before making decisions in clinical practice. Further study should be done to identify appropriate methods of truth telling about diagnosis and prognosis for persons with cancer.

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