

December 03-04, 2018
Amsterdam, NetherlandsMiriam I Siebzeher, J Nurs Health Stud 2018, Volume: 3
DOI: 10.21767/2574-2825-C5-014

NURSING AND MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY: KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICAL SKILLS

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Introduction: Many medical technologies are used by the nursing staff and help provide the patients with better treatment. The nursing staff makes use of medical equipment during the course of their work, most of the time without having proper and adequate qualification. As a result, nurses learn how to use the equipment through working with it, as on the job training. This method of learning is inadequate therefore nurses feel threatened and decline from using the technologies.

Aim: To improve the nurses' skills for using medical equipment in the hospital by providing an organized training program.

Methodology: The project was carried out according to the model of Shyuheart (Carr & Lietmann, 1995) and includes the following stages: planning, implementing, estimating and concluding. The planning stage consisted of selecting departments, and using pretest questionnaires. In the implementation stage the teams were divided in smaller groups, training and practicing skills away from patients. The training was on the use of existing and new equipment. The project was evaluated by filling of questionnaires.

Results: The results showed a rise in the level of knowledge on existing equipment and a high beginning level of knowledge for the new equipment. Levels of anxiety and feelings of security while using the equipment were tested, and a significant improvement was found in both cases.

Conclusions: It is possible to improve the introduction of medical equipment to be used by nurses into hospital wards throughout training programs.

Biography

Miriam I Siebzeher Deputy Director and Senior Researcher Israeli Center for Technology Assessment in Health Care (ICTAHC). She holds two MA's in Nursing from Tel Aviv University and in Public Administration from Harvard's John F Kennedy School of Government. She received her PhD in Health Management from Ben-Gurion University. She is the Chief Nurse Officer of the Central Health District, Ministry of Health. She has published more than 30 articles in professional Israeli and international journals. She has lectured in professional educational programs in Tel-Aviv University. During 20 years, she is a Consultant to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, Division for International Cooperation on Health Issues for Latin America and selected African countries. She has received professional awards: The International Council of Nurses and 3M, Israel Award for outstanding professional achievements, the Ministry of Health Outstanding Employee Award in recognition of highest level of excellence, The Prime Minister Office Civil Service Commission Outstanding Governmental Employee Award.

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