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Category: Nursing knowledge

TITLE: Nursing diagnosis and knowledge development: new beginnings

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Introduction with Problem Statement

In 2017, California nurse leaders executed a statewide effort to define nursing's value.¹ Researchers explored ways to demonstrate the nursing profession's unique — though largely invisible — contributions. Under the California Nurse Practice Act², registered nurses are required to formulate a nursing diagnosis. This study analyzed registered nurses' roles in diagnostic processes, including subsequent development of effective plans and targeted interventions to achieve clinical outcomes.

Methods

Using surveys, the study explored how registered nursing students in pre-licensure programs are taught the nursing diagnosis process, and how nurses utilize nursing diagnosis in practice. While each survey instrument contained unique questions, six common questions explored areas of similarity or variation in perspective and practices. Each survey included multiple choice questions, open-ended questions and space for comments.

Results and Discussion

Thirty schools and 34 hospitals responded. 93.3 percent of registered nursing pre-licensure programs indicated that nursing diagnosis was a formal curriculum component, but many reported that they do not observe registered nurses using it in practice. Of the hospitals surveyed, only 24 percent reported using NANDA-I methodology; 36 percent of hospitals indicated that, while they expect nurses to utilize nursing diagnosis, they had not adopted a specific method or approach.

Impact on the Discipline

Wide variability exists between how schools teach and how hospitals use nursing diagnosis — despite agreement that it is a key factor in describing nursing's value. Academic and professional leaders have an opportunity to improve the consistent use of nursing diagnoses to highlight nursing's value.

References

1. Health Impact White Paper, *Use of Nursing Diagnosis in California Nursing Schools and Hospitals, Report of Statewide Survey Results*, Copyright 2018, https://healthimpact.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Use-of-Nursing-Diagnosis-in-CA-Nursing-Schools-and-Hospitals_JAN-2018.pdf
2. Business & Professions Code, Chapter 6, Nursing Section 2725, the Standards of Competent Performance (California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 1443.5) and the California Code of Regulations (Title 22, Section 70215)