

ARTICLE REVIEW ON "LEGAL AWARENESS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF NURSING STAFF IN ADMINISTRATION OF PATIENT CARE IN A TRUST HOSPITAL"

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SOURCE

Kumar, Gokhale, Jain, and Mathur. "Legal Awareness and Responsibilities of Nursing Staff in Administration of Patient Care in A Trust Hospital." National Center for Biotechnology Information. U.S. National Library of Medicine, 18 Nov. 2013. Web. 05 Oct. 2014. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3919375/>.

ABSTRACT

This review thoroughly and meticulously reviews the article titled 'Legal Awareness and Responsibilities of Nursing Staff in Administration of Patient Care in A Trust Hospital'. Firstly, the details and contents of the article will be critically summarized by the review. Secondly, the validity or efficacy as regards the structure of the article will be examined by the review in order to ensure that the given information is properly organized. In addition, the review will also conduct an investigation to determine if the article can be conveniently accessed

INTRODUCTION

This is to ensure an uninterrupted access to the article by its possible readers. Thirdly, the review will include a thorough critique of the article and also, the accuracy, authority, currency, objectivity and relevance of the article will be examined and evaluated by the review. Finally, the graphs which has the statistical results represented on them will be analyzed by the review in order to ascertain the article's reliability. Basically, the information presented in the article was unambiguous and explicit.

ARTICLE SUMMARY

Basically, the purpose of the article is to determine and evaluate the extent to which the nurses in India are aware of their legal duties or obligations while supervising patient care at a trust hospital. This was due to prior allegations that the nurses in India have an extremely low legal knowledge of their legal responsibilities and duties in handling patient care and also, the legal obligations of patients towards the nurses. In addition, the nurses in India were also said to have a low knowledge of the basic laws or legal provisions guiding the nursing profession.

The article confirmed and justified these allegations (poor knowledge of their legal duties) against nurses in India which could give rise to the number of law suits filed against them for acts of negligence and illegal medical practices.

The nurses in India were said to have the notion that they should not be held accountable for their acts of negligence and wrongful medical practices. This implies that they believe their acts of negligence (especially the acts of omissions and commission) are part of the responsibilities of the doctors and the hospital management. However, due to this belief by these nurses, the article stated that the introduction of several legal provisions such as the Consumer Protection Act, India 1986 has helped in curbing the excesses of nurses to the barest minimum.

ARTICLE STRUCTURE

The article was initiated with the abstract and subsequently followed by the introduction, material and methods, results, discussion, conclusion and references. The introduction section introduced the purpose of the study and the underlying reasons why the study was carried out. The relevant medical Acts and laws which are applicable to the topic of the article were mentioned and explained to support different assertions.

The change in standard as regards to the role and duties of nurses in the health care setting was emphasized. In addition, the increase in the number of nursing institutions (e.g. Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) colleges and Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) colleges) and practitioners over the years were also reported. The methods and material section presented the date and actual location where the study was conducted.

This section also gave a detailed account of the strategies and steps taken prior to the commencement of the study and also, information about the qualified participants (staff of ANM and ANM). In addition, this section provided the type of data collection used in executing the study and the exact steps taken towards the collection of data e.g. open-ended questionnaires were used for data collection. The next section presented the results drawn from the study.

The results were presented in graphs and charts. The results clearly displayed the figures concerning the level of awareness of nurses and also, their deficiencies as regards the laws or legal provisions guiding the nursing profession. In addition, the presented results were

examined based on certain factors namely; age, experience and nursing qualification. The discussion section examined and deliberated on the purpose of the study, research methods, results and findings (supported with facts and figures) and other revelations from the study.

The discussion ended with the recommendation that nurses should have a vast knowledge of certain basic nursing laws. The conclusion, which stressed the importance of the knowledge of laws guiding the nursing profession was brief and concise. The references were cited and stated clearly in the reference section. Overall, it can be concluded that the structure of article was well-organized and presented in a logical manner. The article contained strategic links for easy accessibility to the article, authors, author information, article notes, sub-headings, citations and references. Lastly, the article was in the HTML format.

ARTICLE CRITIQUE

AUTHORITY

The Article, Legal Awareness and Responsibilities of Nursing Staff in Administration of Patient Care in A Trust Hospital, was published by the National center for Biotechnology information. The article was found on the database of the Journal of Clinical and Diagnostic Research which is a credible directory. The authors are academicians who have vast knowledge in the field of medicine. The credibility of the authors can also be proven in terms of their academic attributes.

The first author, Hemant Kumar is a professor at General Hospital, Rajouri, J & K, India. The second author, Gokhale is a camp commandant, 13 Sector, Romeo forces, J & K, India. The third author, Kalpana Jain is an assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, Graded Pathologist, General Hospital, Rajouri, J & K, India. The fourth author, D.R. Mathur is a Professor, Department of Pathology, Principal & Controller, Jodhpur Medical College & Hospital, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India. The fact that the article was published by the National center for Biotechnology information and the United States National Library of Medicine also proves that the article is a credible one.

ACCURACY

The source of the information used in the article which includes the citations and references can be traced to recent journals and research works by individuals with in-depth knowledge in the field of nursing. The citations and references were highly relevant to the article and were also used to support the assertions made in the article.

CURRENCY

The article is very current because it was received in September 2013, accepted for publication in October 16 and published in December 2013. The study was conducted at the

Healthcare Management Institute (HMI), KEM Hospital, Pune, in 2010 – 2011 which makes it a current study. The references and citations used in the article can also be considered as recent works because they were published between 2005 and 2014.

RELEVANCE

This was a research article of high importance written and published on the database of the Journal of Clinical and Diagnostic Research. This article was written for the purpose of informing and educating nurses of the need to increase their level of awareness as regards the basic nursing laws or legal provisions guiding the nursing profession.

In addition, it was also written in order to educate nurses about their need to know their legal rights while administering patient care as well as the consequences for any act of negligence on their part. This article is of utmost importance to patients because it emphasized the need for patients to know their legal rights towards nurses. Overall, this article is relevant to both nurses and their patients.

OBJECTIVITY

The article was free of any proof of bias. This implies that the information in the article was objectively developed. The collection of data was conducted without any prejudice. For example, the participants were 443 (ANM - 139, GNM - 304) qualified staff. The consent of these nurses were rightly obtained before they were informed of the purpose and methodology of the study. This shows a high level of objectivity of this study. It is pertinent to state that due permission was obtained from the management of Healthcare Management Institute (HMI), KEM Hospital prior to the commencement of the study. In addition, the topic was also properly approved by the director of the Institute. It can be concluded that the information in the article was objectively obtained.

STABILITY

The article was a research article written based on sources from the nursing or patient care field and also found in the database of the Journal of Clinical and Diagnostic Research to raise the level of awareness of nurses on basic nursing laws or legal provisions guiding the nursing profession. All these makes the article a stable research article.

ANALYSIS OF GRAPH

For the purpose of this research, the participants were required to answer nine questions in order to evaluate their level of legal awareness. The answers or results from the participants were analyzed based on age, qualification, experience and age. For example, the analysis of the graphs shows that the nursing staff with more than 10 years of experience has the highest knowledge of the legal provisions with the score of 28.75%.

Another result on the graph shows that the knowledge of the nursing staff as regards established basic nursing procedures were the highest among those who were 40 years of age. However, the nurses who participated in the study were questioned if they had the knowledge of any legal complaints made against nurses as a result of any act of negligence. It was reported that 47% of the nurses being interrogated confirmed some few cases of acts of professional negligence, most of which were due to wrong prescription of drugs and injections to patients.

CONCLUSION

This review has critically examined and reviewed the 'Legal Awareness and Responsibilities of Nursing Staff in Administration of Patient Care in A Trust Hospital' by Kumar, Gokhale, Jain, and Mathur. After an in-depth critique of the article, it can be concluded that it was a well-structured article which was free of any ambiguity. The purpose of the study was initiated, examined and stated clearly.

The study was conducted without any proof of bias and the results showed the outcome of the study. At the end of the study, it was reported that nurses in India had a low knowledge or awareness of the basic nursing laws and other legal provisions guiding their profession. A high level of legal awareness or knowledge of the basic nursing laws are very important and integral to the nursing profession. This implies that nurses needs to know the basic laws and provisions governing their profession.

REFERENCE

Kumar, Gokhale, Jain, and Mathur. (2013) "Legal Awareness and Responsibilities of Nursing Staff in Administration of Patient Care in A Trust Hospital. "National Center for Biotechnology Information. U.S. National Library.