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Patient Safety in Nursing: A Literature Review

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Purpose: To explore patient safety in nursing that may contribute to nursing care. **Methods:** A literature review of 60 articles on patient safety retrieved from electronic databases was conducted. Articles were selected based on the setting of study, nursing as focus of the study and the year of publication between 2000 and 2012.

Result: The findings showed that patient safety is a nurse's effort to prevent or reduce patient harm from both actual and potential risks that could harm patients during treatment. There are several dimensions adopted by hospitals to effectively manage patient safety, such as building safety culture, leading and supporting staff, integrating risk management activity, promoting report writing, involving and communication with patient' and the public, learning and sharing safety lessons and implementation of solution' to prevent harm. Moreover, unsafe situation can occur in a microsystem in nursing care, that is from the immediate invironment, where nurse and patient interaction occurs. Failure in the nursing care process result in material losses, increased length of stay, disability and death. Patient safety research has been undertaken in different ways such as retrospective review of medical records, survey or cross-sectional study, qualitative study including focus group discussion, ethnography, mixed method and intervention. Furthermore, to achieve patient safety, many tools have been used such as PDCA cycle, six-sigma model, Health Failure Mode Effect Analysis (HFMEA), Root Cause Analysis (RCA) and SIMPLE model.

Conclusion: Patient safety has become an important transition for achieving high quality of nursing care. Nurses are major healthcare providers who can play a role in surveillance and coordination and can reduce the negative outcomes of care such as adverse events, mortality and morbidity.

Keywords:

patient safety, PDCA, Six sigma, HFMEA, RCA, SIMPLE Model.

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