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Title: The Attitudes of Qualified Nurses towards Nursing Audit in an Acute General Hospital in Hong Kong

Abstract

A quantitative study to explore the attitudes of qualified nurses towards nursing audit was carried out in an acute general hospital in Hong Kong. The research instrument used in this study was developed by Ko (2000) at the University of Birmingham named " Questionnaire on Qualified Nurses' Attitude towards Nursing Audit". The target samples were all qualified nurses ranking from Department Operating Managers, Ward Managers, Nursing Specialists, Nursing Officers and Registered Nurses to Enrolled Nurses who were working in 7 general wards in the studied hospital. The questionnaires were distributed to the nurses in September 2002 after obtaining the permission from Hospital Chief Executive. Voluntary participation and anonymity were assured. Pilot study was conducted to test the validity of instrument. Out of the 135 questionnaires were distributed, 81 of them had been returned. The high response rate 60% might reflect that most of the nurses were keen to express their opinion on nursing audit. Software Statistical Package for the Social Sciences was be used to analyze the collected data. Pearson correlation coefficients was applied to reveal that there was statistically significant correlation between nurses' knowledge on nursing audit and their willingness to be involved in nursing audit, and perception about nursing audit at $p \leq .05$ level. Furthermore, Spearman correlation test was employed to explore the significant correlation between the rank and lengths of service with the above three variables at $p \leq .05$ level. In addition, Independent t-test was applied to identify the influences of audit training and participation in nursing audit could produce statistically significant difference in nurses' knowledge, willingness and perception towards nursing audit at $p \leq .05$ level. The aim of the study was to reveal the relationship between nurses' knowledge on nursing audit and their willingness to be involved in nursing audit, and their perception about nursing audit.

The expectation of the study was to obtain valuable information for the managerial level to identify the existing situation in nursing audit. Besides, it could provide future direction for improving the existing approach in audit and hence improving the quality of care rendered.