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ABSTRACT

Hospital Authority had implemented nursing audit in the public hospitals of Hong Kong since 1997. Nurses' attitudes towards nursing audit had significant effect on the success of nursing audit. The aim of this quantitative survey study was to explore nurses' attitudes towards nursing audit in a general acute regional hospital with a designated capacity of 1659 beds in Hong Kong. The instrument used in the study was the 'Questionnaire on Qualified Nurses' Attitudes towards Nursing Audit' developed by Ko (2000) at the University of Birmingham. The target samples were 260 nurses comprising 40 ward managers/ nurse specialists/ nursing officers, 170 registered nurses and 50 enrolled nurses. Stratified random sampling method was applied to select the sample from 1303 nurses; totally 20% would be drawn from the whole population. The high response rate (61.5%) might reflect that the nurses were eager to express their notions concerning the current nursing audit Strategies. 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 perceptions about nursing audit at $p \sim 0.05$ level, Besides, independent-samples t test was applied to identify that nursing audit training and nursing audit participation could produce statistically significant differences in nurses' knowledge, willingness and perception towards nursing audit at $p \sim 0.05$ level. From the research results, it was suggested that in order to improve the nurses' attitudes towards nursing audit, they should be given more opportunity to attend audit training and participate in nursing audit activities. Furthermore, the research results provided invaluable information concerning various aspects of current practice of nursing audit for the top management level in planning the future direction and strategies in audit.