

2nd International Meeting On

NURSING RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

March 19-20, 2018 | Singapore City, Singapore

Knowledge, attitudes and self-reported practices of nurses at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka on the last offices of a deceased

Dharmarathna K M R P

National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

Background: Nurses care for patients before they are born, during the lifetime and also after death. The care rendered by nurses to a deceased in a hospital has traditionally been referred to as 'last offices' or care after death.

Aim: The aim of this study was to describe the knowledge, attitudes and self-reported practices among nurses in relation to the last offices.

Methods: This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted on a convenience sample of 368 nurses working in randomly selected 15 wards/units in the National Hospital of Sri Lanka using a pre-tested self-administered questionnaire. Data were analyzed using SPSS (version 16).

Results: The response rate was 87.2%. Mean age and years of experience of the participants were 33.57 ± 6.9 and 8.33 ± 6.8 respectively and the majority was females (92.4%). According to the results most of the participants had a good knowledge in recording last offices, eye donation, information to relatives and dead body preparation in the percentages of 72.3%, 58.7%, 52.7% and 71% respectively. Almost all (98.4%) had good knowledge in responsibility of property of the deceased and respecting the religious and cultural

wishes. Further, more than half of the participants had poor knowledge in certification and registration of death, health and safety, legal requirements and supporting family members of the deceased in the percentages of 57.9%, 50.3%, 50.3% and 52.2% respectively. Most of the participants (95.4%) have accepted addressing religious and cultural requirements as their duty, importance of respecting privacy and dignity of the patient (95.7%) and importance of considering the impact of their own behaviour on the family during last offices (97.5%). Only 27.7% of participants had good self-reported practices while 44.3% had fair self-reported practices and 28% had poor self-reported practices regarding last offices.

Conclusion: Although a majority showed good knowledge, favourable attitudes and fair self-reported practices towards the last offices, deficiencies in all those areas were identified. Nurses' knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding last offices could be improved through continuing education and establishing practice guidelines to enhance the quality of care.

rasi.priyadarshi@gmail.com