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Nurses' perspective of patient advocacy: A systematic mixed studies reviewUsama Saleh
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Background: Nursing advocacy is a relatively modern concept and became a very important function of nursing practice as it is considered a fundamental value of professional nursing. Patient advocacy is a complex concept and there have been inconsistencies on the use of this concept and the literature indicate immaturity of the concept.

Purpose: The purpose of this review is to present the current state of evidence to report on nurses' attitude and perception toward patient advocacy.

Search Methods: We searched for evidence regarding nurses' attitude, perceptions, feelings, thoughts, or behaviors toward patient advocacy in three databases: CINHALL, MEDLINE, and OVID. Gray literature and online resources were used during the search strategy. There was no restriction to the date of publication.

Search Criteria: The inclusion criteria were studies on nurses' attitude, perception, feelings, thoughts, and behaviors toward patient advocacy published in academic journals in English language. Qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-method research studies were included in the review. The review excluded studies focused on pediatric

and/or neonatal nurses.

Appraisal Process: The Critical Appraisal Skills Program (CASP) as a quality assessment tool was used as a framework to review the quality of the full-text articles. The articles were assessed against each CASP criterion. Each article was awarded a value score out of 20 to signify its adherence to the CASP criteria.

Results: A total of 22 studies were eligible, of the 987 studies retrieved from selected databases. The total appraisal points of the articles ranged from 13-19 out of 20. The review resulted in two findings: (1) regardless of their clinical areas, nurses consistently have positive attitude toward patient advocacy, and (2) the patient advocacy process includes four elements: (1) morally inappropriate client situation, (2) a professional nurse, (3) advocacy-specific nursing interventions, and (4) the consequences of the advocacy intervention.

Conclusion: The Patient Advocacy Process Model can be effective in defining the multidimensional construct of the advocacy. Preparing professional nurses for the advocacy role is essential part of quality nursing care.

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