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Nurses' Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Regarding Pressure Ulcer Prevention: A Comparative Analysis of Practices in Private and Government Healthcare Settings

MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA
INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH BEHAVIOURAL RESEARCH

Rozaine Binti Osman
University MAIWP International



Introduction

Pressure ulcers remain a persistent and costly global healthcare problem, significantly increasing patient morbidity, length of hospital stay and healthcare expenditure. Nurses are at the forefront of pressure ulcer prevention, responsible for risk identification, implementation of preventive strategies, and continuous patient monitoring. However, inconsistencies in nurses' knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) across healthcare settings may limit the effectiveness of prevention efforts. Understanding these variations is critical to improving care quality and patient safety

Objectives

To compare nurses' knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding pressure ulcer prevention in private and government hospitals and to identify factors influencing preventive performance across settings.

Methodology

A comparative cross-sectional study was conducted among 159 registered nurses working in medical, surgical, intensive care, and high-dependency units of selected private and government hospitals. Data were collected using a self-administered online questionnaire adapted from the validated Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Assessment Tool (PUKAT). Descriptive statistics summarized KAP levels, while Chi-square tests and independent *t*-tests examined associations and differences between groups.

Results

Most nurses demonstrated good knowledge (71.7%) and positive attitudes (91.8%) toward pressure ulcer prevention. However, only 56.6% reported good preventive practices. No significant differences were found between hospital types for knowledge ($p = 0.72$) or attitudes ($p = 0.75$). In contrast, preventive practices differed significantly ($p = 0.04$), with nurses in government hospitals showing greater adherence to recommended measures. Although demographic characteristics were not significantly associated with KAP, post-basic training and recent educational exposure showed a positive influence on practice.

Characteristics of respondents	Hospitals		X^2 value	*P*-value
	Government n(%)	Private n(%)		
Knowledge of pressure ulcer prevention:				
• Poor	2 (33.3%)	4 (66.7%)	0.83#	0.72
• Satisfactory	19 (48.7%)	20 (51.3%)		
• Good	59 (51.8)	55 (48.2%)		
Attitudes of pressure ulcer prevention:				
• Poor	6 (46.2%)	7 (53.8%)	0.09P	0.75
• Good	74 (50.7%)	72 (49.3%)		
Practice of pressure ulcer prevention:				
• Poor	5 (45.5%)	6 (54.5%)	6.31P	0.04
• Satisfactory	22 (37.9%)	36 (62.1%)		
• Good	53 (58.9%)	37 (41.1%)		

Discussion and Conclusion

Discussion

This study examined the KAP of nurses toward pressure ulcer prevention, comparing nurses working in private and government hospitals. The findings revealed that while the overall knowledge and attitude levels were comparable across both groups, there was a statistically significant difference in the level of practice. This outcome is consistent with recent literature, which emphasizes that although nurses often possess adequate knowledge and positive attitudes toward pressure ulcer prevention, the translation of this knowledge into consistent clinical practice remains suboptimal (Song et al., 2024). These results provide important insights into how the institutional setting may shape the application of preventive measures in clinical practice.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study highlights that although nurses in both private and government hospitals possess adequate knowledge and positive attitudes towards pressure ulcer prevention, significant differences exist in practice. Government hospital nurses demonstrate better implementation, likely due to greater experience, training and institutional support. Addressing organizational barriers, particularly in private settings is essential to bridge the gap between the knowledge and practice and improve patient care outcomes

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