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Missed nursing care: An important yet challenging issue

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To the Editor

Hospitalized patients have the right to have their needs met and to receive thorough and secure care from the healthcare system. Ensuring the safety and quality of patient outcomes in nursing care poses a significant challenge for nursing personnel and administrators [1]. Missed nursing care is regarded as both an individual and organizational concern, which poses a threat to patient safety when they are deprived of comprehensive care [2]. The shortage of nursing staff, communication barriers among healthcare workers, and inadequate facilities and equipment compel nurses to prioritize certain tasks and make decisions regarding which care to provide or forgo, leading to the omission of certain aspects of care [3]. Missed nursing care is a newly defined concept based on neglect and refers to all the partial and general aspects of the patient's required care that are forgotten or delayed [4]. Therefore, missed nursing care is not only a type of nursing error that can affect patient safety, but also leads to neglect of patients' rights and endangers human recovery [5]. There are many factors involved in the occurrence of Missed care, which can be related to human resources, communication, and financial resources. The results of studies have reported factors such as an unexpected increase in the volume of patient admission and discharge, lack of staff, unavailability of drugs, and emergency situations as the cause of missed care [6]. Furthermore, the absence of essential supplies and medications during critical moments, issues concerning staffing such as nurse shortages, excessive workloads, shift changes, improper task alloca-

tion from the previous shift, inexperienced staff, and nurses engaging in non-nursing duties contribute to missed nursing care. Conversely, inadequate facilities and equipment, encompassing the lack of necessary supplies, tools, and medications, along with ineffective communication, also play a significant role in the prevalence of missed nursing care [7, 8]. Missed nursing care can lead to severe outcomes for individuals and is viewed as a sign of substandard care quality, which is associated with patient death, hospital readmission, adverse reactions, and reduced patient contentment [9]. It leads to consequences such as patient falls, developing pressure ulcers, increasing medication errors, and urinary tract infections [10]. Furthermore, aside from impacting patients, this occurrence also results in adverse outcomes for nurses such as moral distress, burnout, turnover, absenteeism, role strain, and dissatisfaction [10, 11]. Due to the increasing day-by-day and negative effects, missed nursing care has been considered as a worrying factor in the matter of care.

In sum, missed nursing care is a problematic issue that warrants careful consideration from nursing managers and policy-makers. Strategies such as assessing care delivery, fostering open communication with staff, empowering nurses, and addressing reports of missed nursing care can all play a role in reducing the occurrence of Missed care and mitigating its adverse effects on both individuals and healthcare organizations.

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Using artificial intelligent chatbots

None.

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