



## Factors influencing poor nursing documentation from the perspective of nursing staff

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### ABSTRACT

Nursing documentation is a sign implement nursing care. Proper principles in registration can be effective patient safety and security. These researches determine affecting factors not correctly registered nursing staff is done. The descriptive - analytic study of 80 nurses working in hospital in Fasa, selected by availability sampling and their perspective with the factors affecting lack of correct recording nursing. The data were analyzed by SPSS-19 software. 68 (85%) of the participants in the study were female and 12 (15%) were male. Median age of the study population  $63/5 \pm 91/28$  years. Within the scope of the factors related to the nursing: lack of nursing, not having enough time, fatigue has importance were reported. Related area factors: high number of patients, work in high density were the most important. Relevant area of nursing management: the absence of continuous monitoring and evaluation system and the lack of discipline and encouragement were of the greatest importance. Relationship between other variables such as age, gender and experience factors are given in the text. Correct registered nursing is one of the most important functions and responsibilities of the professional nurse and continuous improvement to enhance the quality of registered nurses, is very important.

**Keywords:** Affective Factors, nursing reports, nurse

### INTRODUCTION

Today, with the developments in nursing process, nursing documentation is considered a working framework and an indispensable tool for provision and evaluation of nursing care. (1).

Abraham states that since many organizations implement quality control programs to ensure the highest possible quality of care provided, nursing records as a means of quality assurance and a strategy to promote nursing care quality, effectiveness of patient care and nurses' accountability has gained high significance (2).

According to results of this study, 68 (85%) of the participants were female and 12 (15%) were male. The mean age of the subjects was  $28.91 \pm 5.63$  years. Gynecology ward had the highest number of participants ( $n=16$ ; 20.8%) and CCU had the least number of participants ( $n=3$ ; 3.9 percent). Nurses reported personnel shortage (72.7%), lack of time (57.1 cent.) and fatigue (54.5 percent) as the most important factors influencing poor nursing documentation. In the area related to wards, high number of patients (70.1 percent) and high volume of tasks in the ward (62.3%) were rated as the most important factors. In the area related to nursing management, lack of punishment and reward system (39.5%) and lack of continuous monitoring and evaluation (35.1%) were reported as the most important factors. A significant difference was observed between male and female groups in terms of their rating of factors in the area of nursing management influencing poor nursing documentation. Females rating of effects of factors related to nursing management on inadequate documentation was higher than that of males ( $P=0.05$ ). Mean score of males on lack of motivation was  $3.13 \pm 0.74$  which is significantly more than that of females ( $2.66 \pm 1.01$ ) ( $P=0.003$ ). The mean score of males on illegibility of doctors' instructions was  $3.07 \pm 0.96$  which is significantly more than that of females  $2.53 \pm 0.84$  ( $P=0.035$ ). The mean score of females on high number of patients was  $3.71 \pm 0.52$  which is

significantly higher than that of males ( $3.33 \pm 0.82$ ) ( $P = 0.003$ ). The mean score of females on the type of ward was  $3.34 \pm 0.75$  which is significantly higher than that of males ( $2.87 \pm 0.52$ ) ( $P = 0.023$ ). There was not a significant relationship between males and females on other factors. The mean score for personnel shortage in the Intensive Care Unit was  $0.93 \pm 3.21$  which was significantly lower than the mean score of nurses in other wards ( $P = 0.003$ ). There was no significant relationship between age and experience in all three areas (factors related to nursing, type of ward and nursing management)

Results on factors affecting poor nursing documentation associated with nursing area showed that personnel shortage (72.7 percent), lack of time (57.1%) and fatigue (54.5%) were reported as most important. In area related to ward, factors such as increased number of patients (70.1 percent) and high volume of tasks in the ward (62.3 percent) were the most important. In the area related to nursing management, lack of punishment and reward system (39.5%) and lack of continuous monitoring and evaluation (35.1%) were the most important. The results by Tapp showed that personnel shortage, lack of time and fatigue affected the quality of nursing records and factors such as lack of punishment and reward system and lack of ongoing monitoring and assessment were key factors in nursing documentation. These findings are consistent with results of this study (3). Johnson et al. results about the effects of management factors on the quality of nursing documentation show that 64 percent of the nurses were never appreciated for good quality nursing records and 47% of nurses said they had not been questioned due to poor nursing documentation. These findings are consistent with results of this study that indicates lack of reward and punishment system as an important factor in the nursing records (4). The study conducted by Allen also showed the effect of reward and punishment system on the quality of nursing documentation, which is consistent with the findings of this study (5). Hawes and Baily found that large number of patients and high volume of tasks in the ward were important factors affecting nursing records. These two factors are shown in this study to have significant effects on nursing documentation (6). The findings of this study show that working problems and lack of motivation affect nursing records. In this study, nurses' lack of knowledge about the principles and standards of nursing is a factor increasing poor nursing documentation. The results of the study by Kim and Park showed a significant correlation between gender and factors in the area of nursing management area affecting nursing documentation. Females' rating of the effect of nursing management factors on nursing documentation was higher than that of males. This finding is consistent with the results of the present study. (7)

Given the importance of nursing records in improving the quantity and quality of nursing services and its role in protecting the rights of patients and nurses on the one hand, and the increased patients' awareness about their rights leading to prosecutions against nurses and nursing systems on the other hand, nursing documentation committee in hospitals seems a must. The above factors, sooner or later will force hospital officials, doctors and nurses to do their best for correct nursing and even medical documentation. It is recommended that such an action be taken as soon as possible based on scientific principles.

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