

Intrahospital transport of critically ill patients, an observational study

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Objectives

- This study looks into how nurses are planning and accomplishing intrahospital transport of critically ill patients.
- The purpose of this study is to describe events related to intrahospital transport of critically ill patients, and describe variations in clinical practice and how nurses and doctors collaborate.

Introduction



Scientific studies show that intensive patients, which goes through intrahospital transport, is more disposed for complications than intensive patients who doesn't go through such transport.

The basis for this study is a desire to provide new knowledge about the challenges nurses are facing when they are taking care of critically ill patients under intrahospital transport and how nurses interact during the transport.

The results of the study are discussed in light of quality and safety of the patient.

Method

- The method chosen for this study is observations in a descriptive design.
- The study combines collection and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data.
- A selection of 30 intrahospital transports is included. The instrument for data collection was designed on basis of clinical, evidence-based procedures, with simultaneous focus on communication and collaboration.

Patient safety is a priority



Results

Three main results were found:

1. The checklist for intrahospital transport of intensive patients was observed used in very few occasions.
2. There were several unwanted occurrences in connection with the intrahospital transports.
3. There was considerable variation in composition of the team.

Conclusion

- Use of the checklist is an effective tool for standardization of nursing actions and procedures. The study shows that intensive patients are vulnerable when transferred as several unwanted occurrences during transport indicated.
 - The study shows that nurses are working systematically in the planning and the accomplishment of intrahospital transport of critically ill patients, and they collaborate to take care of intensive patient's vulnerability.
 - The characteristics of most teams in our study were clear communication amongst team members, verbally expressed task distribution and nurses showed awareness of the situation and ability to make decisions.
- Further research on the culture in patient safety, the implementation of the checklist and the use of such a tool in clinical practice are recommended.
- There is limited research related to the nurse's role in execution of intra-hospital transport and how nurses experience their own function in this context, therefore further research is recommended.

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