

The Role of Nursing, Medical Secretaries and Clinical Laboratories in Improving Patient Experience and Treatment Outcomes

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Introduction

In the field of healthcare, providing high-quality patient care depends not only on the skills of medical experts but also on the cooperative contributions of several essential roles within the healthcare system. Within this set of tasks, nurses, medical secretaries, and clinical laboratories have crucial functions in guaranteeing that patients receive the best possible care, have positive interactions, and attain favorable treatment results.

Nurses, being essential figures in the field of healthcare, have a crucial responsibility in delivering and organizing care, preventing negative incidents, and maximizing the efficiency of health services and patient results (Aiken et al., 2014). Nurses have a duty to ensure healthcare quality that goes beyond providing safe care based on the best evidence and clinical standards. They also play a role in participating in the larger organizational and system structures that promote quality and safety (Oldland et al., 2020). Nurses are obligated to assess, track, and communicate the suitability and efficacy of healthcare, thereby contributing to enhancements in healthcare quality. They have a crucial function in supporting, implementing, and assessing eHealth applications to enhance patient safety. They also contribute to the design and management of facilities, equipment, and work procedures to ensure safety.

Medical secretaries work alongside nurses and play a crucial role in maintaining administrative efficiency in hospital settings. Their precise focus on detail and exceptional organizational skills guarantee that logistical challenges do not hinder the delivery of prompt and efficient service. Medical secretaries adeptly handle tasks such as arranging appointment calendars, coordinating referrals and authorizations, and navigating the complexities of healthcare bureaucracy. Their primary goal is to ensure that patients receive the required services promptly and without any hindrance (ALTHOBAITI et al., 2023). Furthermore, their function as middlemen between patients and healthcare professionals enables effective and succinct communication, thus reducing misconceptions and promoting trust. Medical secretaries play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth functioning of medical operations, which is essential for providing great patient experiences.

Clinical laboratories play a crucial role in ensuring accurate diagnoses and effective treatments in the healthcare system. By conducting a wide range of tests and analysis, these facilities offer clinicians crucial information on patients' physiological condition, the advancement of their disease, and how they respond to treatment. Laboratory testing, ranging from basic blood work to sophisticated molecular diagnostics, allows healthcare practitioners to customize interventions based on individual patient requirements. This approach maximizes the effectiveness of treatments and reduces the occurrence of negative side effects. In addition, the introduction of advanced technologies, such as next-generation sequencing and point-of-care testing, has completely transformed the field of clinical diagnostics (Greaves et al., 2019). These technologies provide quicker results and improved accuracy in diagnosing medical conditions. Through

the utilization of innovation, clinical laboratories persistently challenge the limitations of what can be achieved, therefore facilitating the development of more individualized and accurate methods for patient care.

1. Responsibilities of Nurses, Medical Secretaries and Clinical Laboratories

The complicated tapestry that is the healthcare system forms the fabric of patient care, which is comprised of countless threads that intertwine with one another. Among these key components are nurses, medical secretaries, and clinical laboratories. Each of these components has a unique function in assuring the delivery of high-quality healthcare services, but they are also interconnected.

1.1.Nurses

The provision of care for patients, which includes the management of their physical needs, the treatment of health issues, and the prevention of illnesses, is an important function that nurses play. The majority of nurses, who are members of the medical team and have received extensive training, possess a diverse set of skills and a wide range of tasks, which can vary from one patient to subsequent patients.

- Record medical history and symptoms

To ensure their patients receive the right medical treatment, nurses keep detailed records on their patients' health. The process begins with nurses asking patients about their medical history in order to gather information about previous diagnoses and procedures, current medications, allergies, and relevant family medical history (Wilson & Giddens, 2020). Along with taking a patient's vitals, doctors may also ask about any current symptoms.

- Administer medications and treatments

Under a doctor's orders, most nurses can administer treatments and drugs to patients. On top of that, they can lend a hand when patients need help coming up with a treatment plan. Specialized registered nurses known as nurse practitioners can write prescriptions independently of primary care physicians (Dillon & Gary, 2017). Cleansing and treating wounds, replacing bandages, and inserting catheters are all examples of treatments that nurses may help with. In addition to caring for critically ill patients, nurses may assist doctors during intricate procedures.

- Collaborate with teams for patient care

The collection and dissemination of patient information by nurses is an essential duty that they bear towards the remainder of their medical staff. Due to the critical nature of this responsibility within the nursing domain, it is critical that nurses possess outstanding abilities in both written and spoken communication to facilitate effective collaboration with physicians and other healthcare practitioners. Additionally, concise and effective communication can ensure that patients and their families fully

understand all the information provided.

- Perform diagnostic tests

A wide variety of diagnostic tests are within the scope of practice for nurses, including taking vital signs and specimens of tissue, blood, feces, or urine for laboratory testing. Accurate diagnosis and efficient treatment planning for patients depend on nurses' careful attention to detail when administering tests. Examining the results and communicating them to the rest of the medical team are additional responsibilities that nurses may take on.

- Conduct physical examinations

At the beginning of each patient session, nurses will often do a thorough physical examination to gauge the patient's overall health (Jarvis, 2023). The patient's vitals, including temperature, weight, heart rate, and blood pressure, may need to be recorded. In addition to looking at the patient's eyes, ears, nose, and throat, this evaluation could also include testing their reflexes and lymph nodes. The purpose of the physical examination is to provide the medical team with an accurate picture of the patient's current health situation and to allow the patient to express their health goals.

- Monitor patients' health

Nurses are required to diligently oversee and scrutinize their patients in order to document any symptoms or pertinent data that may contribute to a diagnosis or modification of their treatment regimen. This may entail meticulously verifying patient records to guarantee accurate listing of drugs and dosages, diligently maintaining intravenous (IV) lines to ensure regular replacement, and closely monitoring the patient's vital signs. Nurses must also diligently observe nonverbal clues from their patients in order to discern the underlying factors contributing to their health-related problems.

1.2. Medical Secretaries

Developing the foundational abilities required to succeed in administrative positions in healthcare settings is a prerequisite for becoming a medical secretary. Among these include a solid working knowledge of healthcare-specific technology, such as computer programs and medical software. Strong interpersonal and verbal communication abilities are crucial, as are organizational, managerial, financial, and administrative abilities.

The daily responsibilities of a Medical Secretary can differ significantly depending on the type of job. Nonetheless, the majority of people in this role are expected to carry out a few standard responsibilities, which include (Alqahtani et al., 2022):

- Observe scheduled appointments
- Welcome patients and guests

- Perform patient check-in and check-out procedures, which involve gathering and confirming essential information and documents
- Compile and manage patient charts, records, and medical histories
- Coordinate patient referrals
- Type and transcribe medical reports
- Control communications by phone and email
- Facilitate the payment and processing of insurance claims

1.3. Clinical Laboratories

Lab test management plays a crucial role in healthcare by coordinating and organizing diagnostic procedures to ensure comprehensive patient care. In addition to its technical function, it serves as a crucial element for accuracy and productivity, adeptly maneuvering through the intricacies of the medical field (Wilson et al., 2018). Streamlining operations in this critical domain is not only about optimizing processes; it is an essential strategic imperative that guarantees excellent healthcare results.

- Clinical laboratories conduct a diverse array of diagnostic examinations and analysis on patient samples, encompassing blood, urine, tissue, and bodily fluids.
- Clinical laboratories comply with regulatory standards, implement quality control procedures, and undergo proficiency testing to guarantee precise and dependable test outcomes.
- Clinical laboratory experts analyze test data, detect abnormalities, and convey their findings to healthcare clinicians to aid in clinical decision-making (Hughes & Jackups, 2022).
- Clinical laboratories conduct research, innovation, and development of novel laboratory tests, technologies, and methodologies to enhance diagnostic capabilities and improve patient care.

2. Strategies for Enhancing Patient-centered Care Employed by Nursing, Medical Secretaries, and Clinical Laboratories

2.1. Nurses

- Nursing personnel have the opportunity to participate in training programs that specifically target the development of empathy and good communication skills. These programs enhance nurses' skills in active listening, empathetic expression, and clear communication with patients and their families (Bullington et al., 2019). Nurses can improve patient satisfaction and adherence to treatment programs by developing their interpersonal skills, which enable them to establish trust, reduce anxiety, and cultivate meaningful connections with patients.

- Nurses have the ability to establish patient education initiatives with the goal of enabling individuals to take an active role in their own healthcare. These efforts offer patients access to knowledge regarding their health issues, treatment alternatives, and self-care techniques, empowering them to make well-informed choices and assume responsibility for their own health. Nurses facilitate improved health outcomes and decreased risk of problems or hospital readmissions by encouraging health literacy and self-management abilities in patients.
- Nurses have the ability to engage in collaborative efforts with various healthcare practitioners, such as physicians, social workers, and allied health professionals, in order to create all-encompassing care strategies that are specifically designed to meet the unique requirements of each patient. Nurses promote interdisciplinary collaboration and effective communication to comprehensively address patients' physical, emotional, and psychosocial well-being (ALENAZI et al., 2023). This integrated method of providing treatment fosters consistency, minimizes disintegration, and improves the whole patient encounter.

2.2. Medical Secretaries

- Medical secretaries have the ability to establish effective appointment scheduling systems that prioritize the convenience and accessibility of patients. This encompasses providing flexible scheduling alternatives, reducing waiting periods, and arranging urgent appointments whenever feasible (Smeds, 2019). Medical secretaries improve the overall patient experience and satisfaction by simplifying the scheduling procedure and minimizing administrative tasks for patients.
- Medical secretaries have the opportunity to participate in training programs that specifically target the development of patient-centered communication skills. These programs prioritize the development of active listening skills, empathy, and clear communication approaches for engaging with patients and their families. Medical secretaries can enhance patient happiness and trust in the healthcare system by implementing a patient-centered strategy to answer inquiries, concerns, and preferences.

2.3. Clinical Laboratories

- Clinical laboratories can employ tactics to accelerate the transmission of results for urgent or time-critical tests. This involves giving priority to crucial tests, streamlining laboratory processes, and utilizing technology to enable quick reporting of results (Luppa & Junker, 2018). Clinical laboratories improve the efficiency of patient care and aid in clinical decision-making by reducing turnaround times and ensuring prompt access to diagnostic information.
- Clinical laboratories have the ability to introduce patient engagement programs and feedback mechanisms in order to obtain input from patients regarding their experiences with laboratory

services. This involves carrying out patient satisfaction surveys, focus groups, and interviews to collect input on the quality of care, effectiveness of communication, and overall level of satisfaction. By integrating patient viewpoints into quality improvement initiatives, clinical laboratories can pinpoint areas for improvement and customize services to more effectively address patient requirements and preferences.

- Clinical laboratories have the ability to create reporting formats that are user-friendly and may be easily comprehended and interpreted by patients. This involves employing simple and direct language, utilizing visual aids, and providing explanatory comments to effectively and thoroughly convey test results. By improving the legibility and availability of laboratory findings, clinical laboratories enable patients to participate more actively in their healthcare and encourage conversations with healthcare practitioners regarding their health condition and treatment alternatives.

3. The Importance of Effective Communication and Collaboration among Healthcare Professionals in Optimizing Treatment Outcomes

According to (Perry et al., 2021), nurses frequently occupy a prominent position in patient care, engaging directly with patients and collaborating with other members of the healthcare team. Nurses must possess effective communication skills in order to effectively transmit crucial information to patients, deliver precise instructions on drugs and treatments, and handle any concerns or inquiries patients may have. In addition, nurses are required to cooperate with physicians, specialists, and other allied health professionals in order to create all-encompassing care strategies that are customized to meet the specific needs of each patient. Effective coordination of patient care, mistake prevention, and optimization of treatment outcomes rely on clear and timely communication among nurses and other team members.

Medical secretaries play a crucial role in healthcare facilities by overseeing appointment calendars, organizing referrals, and addressing patient queries. Proficient communication abilities are essential for medical secretaries to effectively engage with patients, healthcare professionals, and other administrative personnel. Medical secretaries play a crucial role in providing patients with precise information regarding appointments, procedures, and administrative procedures by effectively and professionally communicating (Alabdullah et al, 2022). In addition, medical secretaries work together with nurses, physicians, and laboratory staff to provide smooth coordination of care, immediately and efficiently addressing patient needs.

Laboratory staff are essential in the process of diagnosing medical diseases, assessing the efficacy of treatments, and providing guidance for clinical decision-making. Efficient communication is crucial for laboratory personnel to effectively and rapidly transmit test results to healthcare professionals, enabling them to make well-informed decisions regarding patient care. In addition, laboratory personnel work

together with nurses, doctors, and other healthcare practitioners to analyze test findings, detect anomalies, and formulate suitable treatment strategies. Effective communication and coordination among laboratory personnel and other team members are crucial to provide prompt and precise delivery of diagnostic information to patients, resulting in enhanced treatment outcomes and patient contentment.

4. Technological Advancements in healthcare Utilized by Nurses, Medical Secretaries, and Clinical Laboratories to Enhance Patient Experiences

Technological innovations in healthcare have significantly altered the way patient care is provided, fundamentally changing the methods and interactions of healthcare practitioners. The introduction of electronic health records (EHRs), telemedicine, and automated laboratory systems has brought about a period of improved efficiency, accuracy, and patient outcomes.

4.1.Nursing

- Electronic Health Records (EHRs): Nurses employ electronic health record (EHR) systems to retrieve and record patient data, monitor prescription usage, document vital signs, and interact with fellow healthcare professionals (Dowding et al., 2015). Electronic Health Records (EHRs) simplify the process of documenting patient information, minimize mistakes that can occur with manual record-keeping, and allow nurses to access patient data in real-time. This empowers nurses to make well-informed decisions and offer safer and more coordinated care.

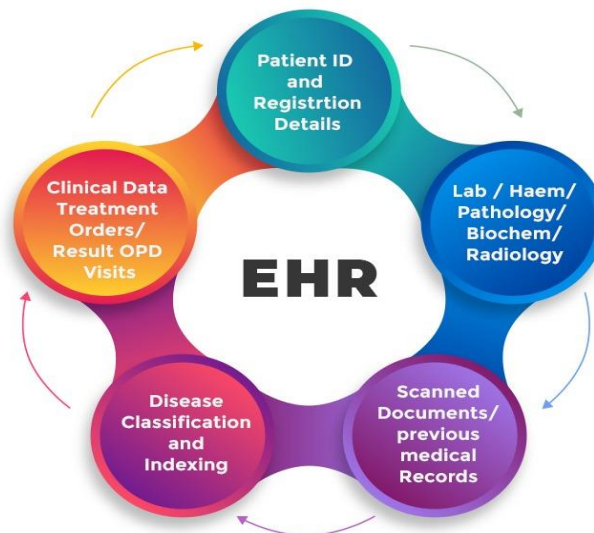


Figure (1):
Health

Electronic
Records

- Telehealth: Nurses utilize telehealth technologies to perform virtual consultations, offer remote monitoring services, and provide patient education and support. Telehealth systems allow nurses to connect with patients in distant or underserved locations, promote healthcare accessibility for

patients with chronic illnesses, and improve the consistency of care by enabling regular follow-up visits and health status monitoring.

- Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS): Nurses derive advantages from Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS) systems that offer evidence-based guidelines, warnings, and reminders directly at the location of patient care (Aloufi, 2020). These technologies aid nurses in making clinical judgments, evaluating patient vulnerabilities, and detecting possible drug errors or bad responses. CDSS solutions improve the quality and safety of nursing care by integrating best practices and guidelines into daily operations.

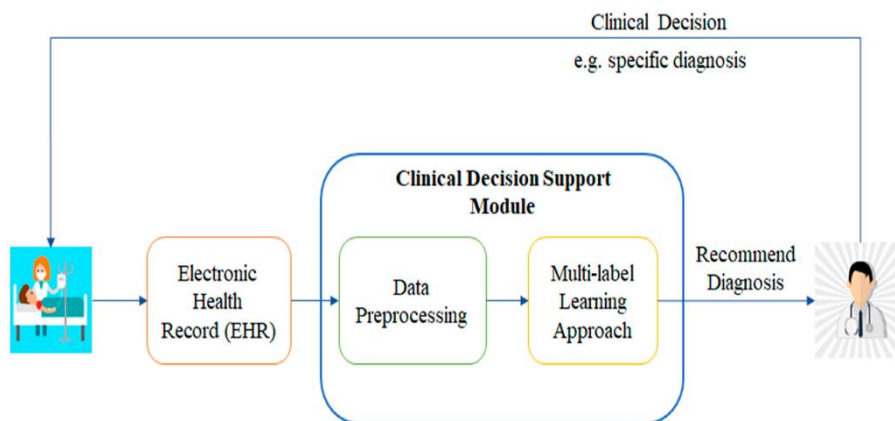


Figure (2): Overview of the decision support system for medical diagnosis

4.2. Medical Secretaries

- Electronic Appointment Scheduling: Medical secretaries employ electronic appointment scheduling systems to oversee patient appointments, synchronize provider calendars, and dispatch appointment reminders. These systems streamline scheduling procedures, alleviate administrative responsibilities, and enhance patient accessibility to healthcare by providing online booking choices and up-to-date appointment availability.

4.3. Clinical Laboratories

- Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS): LIMS software is employed by clinical laboratories for the purpose of overseeing laboratory procedures, monitoring specimens, and upholding quality control standards. LIMS solutions facilitate compliance with regulatory requirements, enhance traceability, and integrate with electronic medical records and other healthcare systems to ensure seamless data exchange, thereby enhancing the accuracy and dependability of laboratory results.
- Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) Devices: POCT devices are utilized in clinical laboratories to facilitate on-site diagnosis and rapid testing of medical conditions across a range of healthcare environments. These portable medical devices empower practitioners to acquire test results in a

timely manner, thereby facilitating treatment decisions and enhancing patient outcomes, especially in critical care or emergency scenarios where prompt diagnosis is imperative (Jain et al., 2021).

5. The Impact of the Roles Played by Nursing, Medical Secretaries, and Clinical Laboratories on Patient and Treatment Outcomes

Nursing has a diverse and complex impact on treatment outcomes across multiple dimensions. Nurses play a crucial role in enhancing diagnosis accuracy by utilizing their acute observation abilities, conducting comprehensive patient evaluations, and engaging in efficient communication with other members of the healthcare team. According to (Alsharyah et al., 2023), nurses play a crucial role in identifying potential health issues and notifying healthcare practitioners for prompt diagnostic testing or interventions by carefully recording patient history, symptoms, and vital signs. The meticulous focus on particulars and astute assessment improves the precision of diagnoses, resulting in more accurate treatment strategies and enhanced outcome for patients.

Furthermore, Alrowily et al., (2023) asserted that nurses have a crucial role in fostering compliance with therapy among patients. Nurses empower individuals by providing patient education, clear communication, and ongoing support, enabling them to comprehend their treatment regimens, follow medication schedules, and embrace good lifestyle behaviors. Nurses improve patient involvement and motivation, leading to improved treatment adherence and more favorable treatment results, by addressing patient concerns, offering practical information, and promoting a collaborative care environment.

In addition, nurses play a role in reducing complication rates by actively monitoring patients, promptly detecting adverse events, and intervening promptly. Their carefulness in evaluating for complications, taking preventative measures, and advocating for patient safety aids in averting unfavorable results and reducing potential hazards during the treatment procedure. Nurses improve patient safety, decrease healthcare-related illness and death, and optimize treatment results by promptly identifying and addressing issues.

According to (Hiligsmann et al., 2019), Medical secretaries enhance treatment outcomes by providing administrative support and coordinating activities in healthcare environments. Although medical secretaries may not have a direct impact on diagnostic accuracy or therapeutic judgments, they play a vital role in enhancing communication, improving access to care, and increasing administrative efficiency, which ultimately affect treatment outcomes indirectly.

An important responsibility of medical secretaries is to provide precise documentation and meticulous record-keeping, which is crucial for preserving thorough and current patient information. Medical secretaries play a crucial role in maintaining the flow of patient information, organizing appointments, and handling administrative duties. Their thorough record-keeping ensures the consistency of patient care

and assists healthcare providers in making well-informed treatment decisions by relying on precise patient data.

Clinical laboratories play a crucial role in guaranteeing diagnostic accuracy, which in turn has a significant impact on treatment outcomes. Clinical laboratories generate accurate and exact test findings that inform clinical decision-making and treatment planning through the use of advanced technology, stringent quality control measures, and standardized procedures (Kaul et al., 2017). The precision and dependability of laboratory tests are crucial for attaining the best treatment results, whether it involves identifying biomarkers of disease, evaluating therapy effectiveness, or tracking disease advancement.

In addition, clinical laboratories play a role in ensuring treatment adherence by monitoring the levels of therapeutic drugs, evaluating the effectiveness of treatment, and identifying any problems associated to medication. Laboratory testing allows healthcare providers to evaluate patients' compliance with prescription regimens, make necessary dosage adjustments, and detect possible drug interactions or adverse effects that could affect treatment outcomes. Clinical laboratories play a crucial role in assisting healthcare professionals by offering unbiased information on the effectiveness and safety of treatments. This helps doctors make well-informed decisions that enhance patient outcomes and reduce the chances of treatment-related problems.

Conclusion

Ultimately, the combined contributions of nursing, medical secretaries, and clinical laboratories are crucial in influencing treatment results within healthcare systems. These stakeholders have a substantial impact on several aspects of patient care and improve the effectiveness of therapy and the well-being of patients through their specialized contributions and multidisciplinary teamwork.

Nursing interventions are essential in patient care, as nurses play a crucial role as frontline caregivers. They contribute to accurate diagnosis, adherence to treatment, prevention of complications, and patient recovery. Their thorough evaluations, educational programs for patients, and careful monitoring not only enhance patient results but also promote a culture of safety and empathy in hospital environments.

Medical secretaries, despite being frequently disregarded, have a crucial function in enhancing healthcare delivery procedures and enabling patient-focused treatment. Their administrative support guarantees effective communication, smooth coordination of care, and prompt access to vital services, hence improving treatment compliance, patient contentment, and overall healthcare excellence.

Clinical laboratories play a crucial role in providing essential information that informs clinical decision-making, medication administration, and disease surveillance. Clinical laboratories enable healthcare practitioners to make well-informed treatment decisions, optimize therapeutic interventions, and effectively monitor patient progress by providing precise and rapid test findings. This ultimately leads to improved treatment outcomes and enhanced patient safety.

Moreover, the cooperative partnership between nursing, medical secretaries, and clinical laboratories demonstrates the interdependence of healthcare delivery, with each participant's input enhancing and supporting that of the others. Healthcare organizations can foster a culture of quality, creativity, and patient-centeredness by acknowledging and utilizing the distinct capabilities of each profession. This approach promotes ongoing enhancements in treatment outcomes and healthcare delivery.

To further enhance the contributions of nursing, medical secretaries, and clinical laboratories in improving treatment outcomes and promoting better health outcomes for everyone, it is crucial to invest in interdisciplinary collaboration, evidence-based practices, and technological innovation. Healthcare organizations can ensure the delivery of high-quality, patient-centered care and enhance the overall effectiveness of healthcare systems by creating a collaborative and supportive environment that empowers healthcare professionals to excel in their roles and meet the evolving needs of patients.

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