

**The role of nurses in providing medical services in health care
centers.**

BY:

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Introduction:

The nursing profession in Saudi Arabia has made considerable strides in terms of education, workforce education, and clinical practice. In Saudi Arabia, there is a continuing shortage of nurses who are native to the country. As a result of the scarcity, as well as the enormous growth that has occurred in both the public and commercial healthcare businesses, there has been an increase in the demand for nurses from other countries. Almost all of the nursing staff in Saudi Arabia is comprised of individuals from other countries. A complete analysis of the nursing profession in Saudi Arabia is provided in this report. Topics covered include the profession's historical foundation, educational advancements, workforce challenges, and professional standards. According to Almalki et al. (2011)

Both a high turnover rate and a continuous shortage of Saudi healthcare workers, notably nurses, are challenges that Saudi Arabia will continue to encounter. According to the Ministry of Health (2008), a sizeable share of the nursing workforce in Saudi Arabian healthcare institutions is comprised of nurses from other countries. Only 29.1% of the nurses working in Saudi Arabia were Saudi citizens, according to the Ministry of Health, which estimated that there were around 101,298 nurses working across all healthcare sectors in 2008. As a result of the fact that domestic nurses only make up 4.1% of the workforce, the demand for expatriate nurses is increasing in the private health sector.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the nursing profession has made major improvements, and it is projected that additional advancements will be made in the future. With the goal of enhancing the quality of nursing care and increasing the number of Saudi citizens entering the nursing field, the Central Nursing Committee was established in 1987 by the Ministry of Health.

As a result of the fact that physicians dominated the nursing profession prior to 1987, nurses did not have a voice that was codified or represented at the national level (Aboul-Enein 2002). At the Ministry of Health, the General Directorate of Nursing, also known as the Division of Nursing, was founded under the direction of Saudi nurses who were both highly educated and long-term professionals.

Health care and nursing in Saudi Arabia:

The Saudi Arabian government has committed a substantial amount of money to the improvement of

healthcare services. The administration's objective is to provide healthcare that is both free and conveniently accessible to all Saudi residents and expats who are employed in the public sector. Expatriate workers in the private sector are sponsored by their employers; however, the majority of funding for healthcare in Saudi Arabia comes from the government budget, which is primarily dependent on revenue from oil and gas (Aldossary, A., et al, 2008). According to the World Health Organization (2005), health expenditures constitute 3.8% of the GDP, with the government providing 77.1% of the funding and private sources providing 22.9% of the funding.

It is the responsibility of both governmental and private organizations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to oversee the management of hospitals and primary care clinics. The Ministry of Health, which is the most important department in the government, is primarily responsible for providing preventive, curative, and rehabilitative services for the health of the Kingdom. These services are in addition to providing rehabilitation services.

Patients who require more advanced medical treatment are sent to a broad variety of general and specialty hospitals by the Ministry of Health, which administers a network of basic healthcare clinics located all over the kingdom. These institutions accommodate patients who require more sophisticated medical treatment.

One of the various branches of medicine that are separate from one another is nursing. (Jokiniemi, K., & Miettinen, M., 2020) The several essential responsibilities that nurses fulfill as members of the therapeutic team make it feasible for the general population to have access to a greater number of health care amenities. Nursing is a dynamic profession that is always adjusting to perform new obligations and gain new abilities in order to meet the ever-increasing expectations made by patients. Only individuals who are legally able to do so and who have the appropriate educational background to do so are able to work in this line of work.

For the purpose of gaining the right to practice nursing and midwifery, as well as for professional and post-graduate education, the Act on Professions of Nurses and Midwives gives a comprehensive overview of the regulations that govern the practice of these professions. Nurses who are interested in enhancing their abilities have the choice of participating in a number of training and specialized courses (Beal, M.

W., et al., 2015).

There were a total of 184,565 nurses working in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2018. However, only 70,319 of those nurses were Saudi citizens, which is around 38 percent of the total (Ministry of Health., 2018). On the other hand, ninety percent of nurses working in other nations are female, but sixty-two percent of Saudi nurses are female. Among the foreign nurses, the majority are registered nurses from India, the Philippines, and Malaysia. These nurses are not Saudi citizens and are not citizens of Saudi Arabia.

As a result of ongoing reforms in the Saudi nursing profession, all Saudi residents will have access to healthcare that is both effective and of high quality. These reforms also provide an opportunity for a rewarding career path for the country, which will allow it to become a regional leader (Alluhidan, M., et al., 2020).

Nurses' tasks

In the communities in which they offer care, nurses make it their daily mission to enhance the physical, emotional, and social well-being of the people of those areas. The primary goal and values of nursing provide the basis for the practical nursing duties that one is responsible for. According to Wasik, M. A., 2020, its fundamental job is to analyze the circumstances of patients, coordinate nursing care, and determine which obligations require the expertise of professionals in fields that are relevant to nursing.

The fact that nurses play an active part in the implementation of health initiatives is something that should not be overlooked. In addition to providing care for people who are unwell and carrying out nursing treatments, patients are also trained on how to make healthy living choices. They make major contributions to the process of preparing patients for independent care when they are afflicted with an illness or handicap throughout the duration of their condition.

These persons are an essential component of the groups of individuals who are responsible for making health policy and participating in research programs (Phiri, L. P., et al., 2014). They are also responsible for participating in research programs.

Nurses' Role in Patient Safety:

According to Lin, F., et al. (2019) and Sermeus, W. (2016), nurses are accountable for ensuring the safety of patients and preventing any harm from occurring when providing care in both short-term and long-term care settings. By evaluating the patient, developing a care plan, carrying out monitoring and surveillance, verifying information, providing assistance, and working in collaboration with other medical professionals, nurses are required to follow organizational protocols in order to identify potential dangers and hazards ((ICN., 2019; Rashvand, F., et al., 2017?).

To ensure the effectiveness of interventions aimed at minimizing practice errors and developing healthcare systems that are both sustainable and safer, it is imperative that nurses adhere to the principles of patient safety. It is necessary to have well-defined policies, strong leadership, safety measures that are driven by research, training for healthcare professionals, and patient participation in order to accomplish this.

Nurses are crucial in ensuring patient safety. They are at the forefront of advocating for patients and are responsible for implementing safety and quality measures in clinical settings (Armstrong, Dietrich, Norman, Barnsteiner, & Mion, 2017; Colet et al., 2018). Nevertheless, patient safety errors and injuries persist despite the practitioner's supervision (Landrigan et al., 2010).

Although there is a wealth of literature on patient safety culture in certain regions, there is a lack of research on this topic in the Arab world, particularly in Saudi Arabia (Aboshaiqah & Baker, 2013; El-Jardali et al., 2014). Research on this topic in Saudi Arabian hospitals is essential to accurately depict the existing patient safety culture in the Kingdom. Scholars suggest regularly evaluating safety culture in clinical settings to pinpoint areas that need enhancement (Alswat et al., 2017; Elmontsri, Almashrafi, Banarsee, & Majeed, 2017).

Waterson (2014) stated that nurses had more precise judgments of the organizational climate due to their direct involvement in patient safety issues and their significant outcomes. Nurses have a crucial role in overseeing and upholding patient safety culture.

Patient Safety and Quality:

To a greater extent than any other healthcare practitioner, nurses play a critical role in ensuring the safety of patients and in planning safe treatment. Along with the substantial training that doctors receive, the

professionalism of nurses is an issue that is always being discussed in the medical field. During the most recent period of Georgia's history, nursing was, unfortunately, considered to be a subset of the medical profession that was considered to be of a lower level. Another way in which this was inferred was through the name: "average medical staff."

Within the context of the present healthcare system, nurses are self-sufficient, highly skilled personnel who take an active role in the treatment and care of patients. One of the tasks of a nurse is to provide care and to advance the health of individuals, families, and society as a whole. This is true regardless of the socioeconomic background, religion, or ethnicity of the nurse. In the state of Georgia, there is a scarcity of nurses that is both quantitative and qualitative in nature.

There is no other healthcare worker who plays a more vital function than a nurse when it comes to the planning of safe care and the protection of patients. The professionalism of nurses is another pressing issue in the medical field, despite the fact that physicians possess a high level of qualifications. Over the course of Georgia's recent history, nursing has, unfortunately, been evaluated as a subordinate subfield of the medical profession.

The phrase "average medical staff" was another clue that was included in the name. Within the context of the contemporary healthcare system, nurses are workers who are financially independent, possess a high level of expertise, and actively participate in the treatment and care of patients. A nurse's job is to promote and maintain the health of individuals, families, and society as a whole, regardless of a person's color, religion, or personal financial condition. (Machitidze, M., et al., 2023) The nursing workforce in Georgia is impacted by both a quantitative and a qualitative problem.

According to Al Dossary, R.N., the working conditions of nurses have a direct influence on the quantity and quality of care that they provide to patients. In order to improve the safety of patients, a number of studies have highlighted the significance of nurses giving care of a better quality. One example is the requirement to raise the bar on the quality of healthcare in Saudi Arabia in order to address the issues that contribute to the negative experiences that patients have in the country (Al korashy & Al Hothaly, 2022). Monitoring the requirements of patients is essential since it requires providing them with the highest possible level of care. Within the context of modern civilization, the word "quality" is applied rather

frequently, both in everyday discussions and in a variety of different forms of media. This expression has been known to people ever since ancient times.

The concept of quality is currently quite diverse, and its use is primarily determined by the particular field of usage. Service activities are able to be classified as medical services because they feature certain essential qualities that allow them to be classified as such. Initially, due to the immaterial nature of the treatment, patients are unable to judge the outcome of the treatment before seeing their doctor. Inseparability is the second feature that is present.

Medical services are provided concurrently, and it is necessary for both the patient and the personnel to be present during the medical procedure. Ensuring that the patient is actively involved in the treatment process is absolutely necessary in order to successfully accomplish the goal of improved health.

The provision of medical services is ongoing. After a predetermined amount of time has passed, it is no longer usable. An additional component is variety, which denotes that every individual patient is seen as a one-of-a-kind case. This, in turn, enables medical personnel to provide individualized therapy and diagnostics that are targeted to the specific needs of each individual patient (Wasik, M. A., 2020).

Conclusion:

The Saudi Arabian healthcare system is currently undergoing a period of change. The Ministry of Health's new vision and the creation of a national health strategy have led to this change. An immediate need exists to implement new strategies to enhance healthcare services in Saudi Arabia, including targeting reforms in primary healthcare services. Reforms need to address various challenges in health, such as scope, structure, infrastructure, financing, increased demand, rising costs, workforce, inequitable access to services, service quality and safety, increasing burden of chronic diseases, information systems, management and leadership issues, and the referral system.

This research adds to our understanding of safety attitudes in Saudi hospital departments in multiple ways. The results demonstrate that the number of reported errors correlates with the less than positive attitudes toward safety held by doctors and nurses employed in Saudi hospitals' departments. Crucially, when compared to workers in other hospital jurisdictions, it demonstrates that Saudi hospital nurses and doctors exhibit significantly lower safety attitudes.

Although nursing in Saudi Arabia has made significant progress in education, practice, and workforce in recent decades, there is still a persistent scarcity of nurses and a high turnover rate. Given the global nursing shortages and anticipated growth in health facilities and local population, it is necessary to make planned and ongoing efforts to raise the quantity and percentage of local nurses. Therefore, it is crucial and urgent to develop long-term strategies for increasing the recruitment of new nurses, both local and expatriate, and for retaining the existing nursing staff. There is a noticeable lack of nursing studies in Saudi Arabia. Nursing researchers should be encouraged to investigate and find solutions for obstacles hindering the advancement of nursing in both public and commercial sectors.

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