

The Relationship Between Nurses' Working Hours Overload and Patient Safety and Care Quality: A Cross-Sectional Study

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Nursing comprises the care of sick or well people, including health promotion, maintenance, or recovery. As stated in Article 7 of the Saudi Law of Health Jobs, the stated monthly working hours are 176 hours. When they exceed 8 hours in outpatient departments, 12 hours in inpatient departments, or 176 monthly hours, they are considered overloaded. Providers seek to provide cost-free qualified care. Many countries have developed new techniques to combat the rising costs, which may lower quality. This study is concerned with the nurse shortage and the growing burden of healthcare.

Materials and Methods: A self-structured survey was distributed among different departments in five hospitals. The study was conducted in November and December, 2021.

Results: 21.5% of males and 78.5% of females, with an average age of 44.3 years, contributed. 77.8% have a bachelor's, 79% are trained in patient safety, and 84% had no patient safety problems. A Likert scale-based scoresheet was distributed to measure patient safety practice, and higher scores were found in expert nurses, nurses working in isolation departments, and those who had received patient safety training. It also showed lower scores as the working hours increased. Using a t-test and an ANOVA provides insignificant results.

Conclusion and Recommendation: Average working hours improve quality and safety. This distinguishes decision-making from action-taking. What care to offer and how to provide and allocate time are interwoven practice decisions. Due to schedules, policies, and workflows, nurses may not be able to make timely decisions.

Keywords: Caldwell-Luc, Dental implant, Displacement, Maxillary sinus, Sinus lift

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