

Effectiveness of Educational Program on Nurses' Knowledge Regarding Ethical and Legal Aspects in Critical Care Units at Holy Karbala Teaching Hospitals

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ABSTRACT

Legal and ethical issues are important for determining whether nurses have appropriately performed their duties and whether those duties are performed within the standards of care. Nurses play a very crucial role in protecting patient rights. Nurses don't just provide clinical services. They are also required to understand patient rights and the legal and ethical aspects that accompany them. To evaluate the effectiveness of an educational program on nurses' knowledge regarding legal and ethical aspects in critical care units. A quantitative study with a quasi-experimental design was conducted using two groups in critical care units at two governmental institutions. First, Al-Imam Alhussain Medical City. Second, Imam Al-Hassan Al-Mujtaba Teaching Hospital in the holy city of Karbala. The study took place between 1st August and 30 November 2025. One hundred nurses working in critical care units were split into two groups: an experimental group and a control group. The study showed a substantial improvement in knowledge scores among the experimental group after the educational intervention, particularly from the pre-test to the first post-test, demonstrating the rapid effects of the training. The results continued to improve between the first and second post-tests, indicating that knowledge is retained over time and enhanced through ongoing professional development. The educational intervention resulted in a rapid and significant increase in the experimental group's knowledge of both ethical and legal issues immediately after the training.

Keywords: Critical care nurses, Ethical and legal aspects, educational program, Knowledge

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