

Title: Exploring the Impact of Nurse-Patient Communication on Patient Outcomes in Acute Care Settings: A Longitudinal Study

Background Information

Effective nurse-patient communication is fundamental to providing high-quality care, especially in acute care settings such as intensive care units (ICUs) or emergency departments, where patients are critically ill and their conditions are often life-threatening (Yani et al., 2022). In these environments, communication can be hindered by the patient's medical condition, the complexity of care required, or external barriers such as language differences or cognitive impairments. Despite these challenges, research consistently underscores the significant role that nurse-patient communication plays in influencing patient outcomes (Shin et al., 2021). Effective communication not only enhances patients' understanding of their medical conditions but also improves their satisfaction, reduces anxiety, and can even accelerate recovery (Henly, 2021). The purpose of this study is to explore the impact of nurse-patient communication on patient outcomes in acute care settings, focusing on how communication affects recovery time, patient satisfaction, and the likelihood of readmission.

Introduction
to the Topic

A growing body of research has highlighted the importance of nurse-patient communication in healthcare, particularly in acute care settings. Effective communication between nurses and patients can positively influence various outcomes, including patient satisfaction, recovery times, and overall healthcare experiences. Duffy and Hoskins (2022) demonstrated that nurse-patient communication significantly influences Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) scores, which are commonly used to measure patient satisfaction and the perceived quality

Critical
Literature
Review

of care. Similarly, Henly (2021) emphasized that in critical care environments, communication between nurses and both patients and their families is essential for managing the complexities of care, improving satisfaction, and promoting better health outcomes. These studies confirm that nurse-patient communication is a critical factor in patient care, especially in high-stress and high-stakes environments.

However, several gaps remain in the literature. For instance, while studies have examined communication practices in various healthcare settings, few have focused specifically on acute care environments where patients' conditions may limit their ability to communicate. Additionally, existing studies often overlook the direct relationship between the quality of nurse-patient communication and measurable patient outcomes such as recovery time, patient satisfaction, and readmission rates (Shin et al., 2021). Many studies have explored communication barriers and strategies in healthcare generally but have not addressed how these factors specifically affect acute care settings (Yoo et al., 2021). Furthermore, although some studies have investigated the use of communication tools such as mobile applications or digital devices, the role of nurse communication itself—beyond technological assistance—has not been sufficiently explored.

Critical
Literature
Review

While existing literature establishes the importance of nurse-patient communication, there remains a significant gap in understanding how communication strategies directly influence patient outcomes in acute care settings. Much of the existing research focuses on general healthcare communication or on patient satisfaction without isolating the specific impact of nurse-patient communication on acute care outcomes. A review of the literature indicates that while some studies have identified barriers to effective communication, they do not provide in-depth analysis of how these barriers can be overcome in critical care units (Chua, 2022). Additionally, the role of specific communication strategies, such as verbal versus non-verbal communication, or the influence of the patient's demographics on communication effectiveness, has not been fully explored (Yani et al., 2022). The existing literature also lacks studies that examine the long-term impact of nurse-patient communication on patient outcomes like readmission rates, recovery time, and overall health improvement in the context of acute care.

Key Gaps in
Literature

This study aims to fill the identified gaps in the literature by examining the direct impact of nurse-patient communication on patient outcomes in acute care settings. Understanding how communication strategies influence patient outcomes such as recovery, satisfaction, and readmission will not only enhance nursing practice but also help improve patient care in critical care environments. The rationale for this study lies in the need to provide a deeper understanding of how communication practices in acute care settings affect both short-term and long-term health outcomes. By focusing on the nuances of nurse-patient interactions, the research will contribute to refining communication strategies and training programs for nurses working in these high-stress environments.

Rationale
of the
Study

The research problem centers around the need for a comprehensive understanding of how nurse-patient communication influences patient outcomes, specifically in acute care settings. While existing studies have shown that effective communication is crucial for patient satisfaction and recovery, there is insufficient research exploring how communication strategies impact critical outcomes such as recovery time, the likelihood of readmission, and overall patient health outcomes in these high-pressure environments. This lack of in-depth research on communication strategies within the acute care setting highlights the need for a study that specifically investigates how these factors interact.

Research Problem Statement

The proposed research will address the following questions:

- How does the quality of nurse-patient communication affect patient outcomes (such as recovery time, patient satisfaction, and likelihood of readmission) in acute care settings?
- What specific communication strategies employed by nurses have a significant impact on patient outcomes in these environments?
- How do patient demographics, such as age, language, and cognitive impairments, influence the effectiveness of nurse-patient communication in acute care settings?
- What barriers to effective communication exist in acute care settings, and how can nurses overcome these challenges to improve patient outcomes?

Research Questions

Objectives of the Study

- To evaluate the impact of nurse-patient communication on patient outcomes such as recovery time, patient satisfaction, and readmission rates in acute care settings.
- To identify effective communication strategies used by nurses in acute care settings and their influence on improving patient outcomes.
- To examine how patient demographics (age, cognitive status, language barriers) affect the effectiveness of nurse-patient communication in acute care environments.
- To explore the barriers to effective nurse-patient communication in acute care settings and propose strategies for overcoming these challenges.

Study
Objectives

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