The Value of Nursing

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YOU'RE NOT TOO POSH TO WASH A PATIENT

Minister orders nurses back to basics

Girl, 3, dies as buggy blows into road
value

*/ˈvaljuː/*

noun

1. the regard that something is held to deserve; the importance, worth, or usefulness of something.
   "your support is of great value"

synonyms: merit, worth, usefulness, use, utility, practicality, advantage, desirability, benefit, gain, profit, good, service, help, helpfulness, assistance, effectiveness, efficacy, avail, importance, significance, point, sense; informal mileage

"the value of adequate preparation cannot be understated"
The nursing contribution to patient care

- Largest sector of workforce
- Most contact with patients
- Co-ordinators of care
- 24 hours
- Most potential to impact on all patient outcomes (interdisciplinary)
- Most significant cost
- Most vulnerable to cost-saving measures
There are so many things nurses are that are of value....

Wise

Creative

Courageous
“A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination”

Nelson Mandela
Complex caring expertise

Galvin 2010
But nurses need to be better at measuring and demonstrating the difference they make with that expertise ....
Nurse-sensitive outcomes

“... aspects of patient experiences, behaviour or health status that are determined in whole or part by the nursing care received”

(Griffiths et al 2002 p6)
What can be measured?

- Patient Safety
- Care Effectiveness
- Patient Experience
Quality of care

The degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and the degree to which these are consistent with present professional knowledge.
Contextual variables impacting on nursing quality  (Maben et al 2012)

**Workforce**
- staffing levels
- skill mix (and education)
- sickness and absence
- practice environment
- interprofessional relations

**Staff experiences**
- perception of the practice environment
- wellbeing
- commitment

**Systems**
- admissions
- discharge
- handover
- records
Creativity

“Creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things in a different way”

Edward de Bono
Courage

“Courage is grace under pressure”

Earnest Hemmingway
Nursing resources
Caring nurses hit by a quality storm

Low investment and excessive workloads, not uncarining attitudes, are damaging the image of NHS trusts, argue the authors of groundbreaking research into Europe’s nurse workforce.

Nurses are getting a bad press in England for being “uncarining” at a time when, according to the United Nations, the United States is hosting more nurses and medical students than any other country. The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and the Quality Improvement Board (QIB) have warned that the number of nurses in the NHS is not keeping up with demand. However, the RCN has noted that nurses are often seen as uncarining by the public, with research showing that nurses are more likely to be seen as uncarining than doctors.

In the UK, the number of nurses being recruited is falling, with a recent report by the Royal College of Nursing showing that the number of nurses being recruited is down by 20% compared to the previous year. This is despite the fact that the government has promised to increase the number of nurses being recruited. However, the RCN has warned that this is not enough to meet the demands of the NHS.

The authors of the research argue that the NHS needs to do more to support nurses and make sure that they are valued for their important role in providing care. They suggest that the government needs to provide more funding for the NHS and that nurse education needs to be improved.

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Nursing resources - emerging evidence

Nurse staffing and education and hospital mortality in nine European countries: a retrospective observational study

Linda H Aiken, Douglas M Sloane, Luk Bruyneel, Koen Van den Heede, Peter Griffiths, Reinhard Busse, Marianna Diamidou, Juha Kinnunen, Maria Koltsa, Emmanuel Lesaffre, Matthew D McHugh, MT Moreno-Castas, Anne Marie Rafferty, Rene Schwendimann, P Anne Scott, Carol Teschelman, Theo van Achterberg, Walter Sermeus, for the N4CAST consortium

- Large observational study conducted in 9 European countries involving data from 422,730 patients and 26,561 nurses.

Main findings:

- An increase in a nurse’s workload by one patient increases the likelihood of patient death within 30 days of admission by 7%

- Every increase of 10% in bachelor’s degree prepared nurses decreased the likelihood of patient death by 7%
‘Intensive’ nursing

- 24 potential hours of nursing for every day of, for example, a hospital stay
- How many of those hours are spent receiving care?
- How many hours of nursing are required in order to optimise outcomes?
- Nursing hours per patient day (NHPPD) – needed versus available hours
- Number of nurses needed to provide optimum care at specific times of day
- What is the increase in nursing hours needed when the patient has additional care needs/comorbidities?
- When the patient leaves the hospital /care environment what residual nursing needs do they have?
Thank you for everything you do – you are amazing
References


http://www.kcl.ac.uk/nursing/research/nnru/publications/