

A view from the outside: nurses' clinical decision making in the twenty first century

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Reference: Deegan, J. (2013). "A view from the outside: nurses' clinical decision making in the twenty first century." Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing 30(4): 12-18.

Key Words:

CALD nurses, decision making

Research aim:

The purpose of this paper is to highlight some observations of clinical decision making processes made by culturally and linguistically diverse nurses (CALD), in relation to elderly patients in particular. It will explore some of the potentially serious professional and legal implications for nurses when there is an over reliance on experiential knowledge and routine tasks without mindful application of evidence and consideration of the ethico-legal imperatives.

Results/Conclusion:

Using some in vivo quotes to highlight what appear to be less than optimal decision making process by nurses, it will be argued that sound decision making in clinical practice is ideally based on a combination of factors; amongst them professional judgement and a sound knowledge base, supported by principles of physical/psychological assessment and ethical principlism. The views of nurses who are new to the system can foster reflection on practices that have become routine, potentially lacking in application of scientific knowledge, and therefore a potential threat to patient safety with associated legal implications for the nurse.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s):

Location of study:

Victoria (Melbourne)

Age group:

Number included in study:

14 CALD nurses, 3 teachers

Type of participants:

CALD nurses and teachers directly involved in the supervision of nurses during their placement

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes:

Nurses are not older in age, but focus was on nurses to older clients