

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, AND ADHERENCE OF NURSES
TO THE ETHICO-LEGAL STANDARDS IN NURSING
PRACTICE AT CAPIZ EMMANUEL HOSPITAL**

A Special Paper

**Presented to
the Faculty of the School of Graduate Studies
CENTRAL PHILIPPINE UNIVERSITY**

**In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
MASTER IN NURSING**

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March 2007**

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by

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the level of knowledge, attitude towards, and adherence to the ethico-legal standards in nursing practice, of the nurses of Capiz Emmanuel Hospital and to determine the relationship between their personal characteristics and their level of knowledge , attitude towards, and adherence to the ethico-legal standards in nursing practice, and between knowledge and attitude towards the ethico-legal standards, knowledge and adherence to the ethico-legal standards, and attitude towards and adherence to the ethico-legal standards.

This is a descriptive-relational study. The study population consisted of 84 registered nurses employed at the Capiz Emmanuel Hospital at the time of the study. A survey questionnaire, designed, validated and pre-tested for reliability was used to gather the needed data. Frequency distribution and means were used to analyze descriptive data. The gamma and chi-square tests were used to test the significance of relationships between variables at .05 level.

Findings of the Study

Respondents were found to be young with a mean age of 29.8 years. Majority of them were female and half of them were single. A great majority were holders of a bachelor degree only a few of them having earned masteral units. Most of them were employed on a regular status and only 26.2 percent were relievers. Most of them were staff nurses, and more than half of them have served the hospital for less than two years.

Respondents' level of knowledge of ethico-legal standards was high, their attitude towards it was favorable and their adherence to the standards was also high.

Respondents' civil status and length of service in the hospital were found to be significantly related to their level of knowledge of the ethico-legal standards in nursing practice. However, their age, sex, employment status, educational attainment, and position occupied were not. Not one of the respondents' personal profile was found to be significantly related to their attitude towards the standards. On the other hand their age, sex, employment status, and length of service in the hospital were found to be significantly related to their level of adherence to the ethico-legal standards in nursing practice.

The study also found no significant relationship between the respondents' knowledge of, and attitude towards ethico-legal standards in nursing practice. Likewise, no significant relationship was also found between knowledge and adherence and between attitude and adherence to the ethico-legal standards in nursing practice.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions and generalizations are arrived at:

1. The nurses of CEH are young, predominantly female, have served the hospital less than two years, have an educational attainment that meets the minimum requirement for the job, and are regularly employed either as staff nurses or middle managers.
2. The nurses of the CEH recognize the importance of the ethico-legal standards in nursing practice. They are knowledgeable about these standards; they have a favorable attitude towards the standards; they are aware of the repercussions of non-adherence; and they consider these standards as guides in the practice of their profession.
3. The nurses of CEH have adequate knowledge of the ethico-legal standards in nursing practice. The married ones and those who have served the hospital a bit longer tend to be more knowledgeable than those who are single and are new in the service.
4. The nurses' attitude towards the ethico-legal standards in nursing practice is not influenced by any of their demographic characteristics.
5. The nurses at CEH adhere to the ethico-legal standards as they perform their jobs. Young, female nurses and those who are hired as relievers, as well as those who are new in the service tend to adhere more to the standards set in the practice of their profession than their counterparts; the older, the male nurses, the regular ones, and those who had served the hospital a bit longer.

Recommendations

On the basis of the findings of the study and the conclusions arrived at, the following recommendations are offered:

1. While nurses at CEH have high knowledge, favorable attitude, and a high level of adherence to the standards in nursing practice, a regular reorientation and updating on the standards have to be continued and sustained so that the repercussions of not strictly adhering to said standards can be avoided.
2. The nurses of the CEH have to be encouraged to take up advance courses both in the masteral and doctoral level not just for the purpose of gaining knowledge about and adhering to the ethico-legal standards in nursing practice but also for professional and career advancements. Management support for the nurses' educational advancement is also recommended.
3. A similar and/or a more in-depth study that will focus on nurses' knowledge, attitude, and adherence to specific nursing procedures and care pathways is recommended so that findings of the present study can be further verified.