

Effect of Eye Care Competence Inventory Guidelines on Nurses' Clinical Competence in Eye Care for Unconscious Patients

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Assessing nurses' clinical competency in providing eye care for patients with altered consciousness in intensive care units, and determining the relationship between nurses' sociodemographic traits and their clinical competency in providing eye care for unconscious patients.

Study Design: A pre-experimental (one group pre-test and post-test) study

Place and Duration of Study: This study was conducted at the AL-Basrah teaching hospitals in the AL-Basrah governorate from 22nd February 2024 to 30th September 2024.

Methods: The present study included a non-probability purposive sample of forty nurses, both male and female, who cared for patients with altered levels of consciousness at Intensive Care Units.

Results: There were significant differences between the two-time levels of all components of competencies (knowledge, practice, and attitude) at $P = 0.000$ for all domains.

Conclusion: The low and moderate level mean at the pre-test to high level of knowledge mean at posttest time duration, shifting in the mean score to very high attitudes at the post-test time, significant shifting in the mean of score of practice from low level to high level which revealed improving in nurses' practices about eye care.

Key Words: Nurses' clinical competence, Eye care for unconscious patients

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INTRODUCTION

The majority of persons admitted to intensive care units suffer from an altered level of consciousness, sensory deprivation, or any other disability which in turn affects activities of daily living as a result of disease.¹ Because the nursing staff plays a crucial role in critical care units around the world, nurses must possess specialized expertise to give critically ill patients the best, safest, and highest level of care possible.² The reason behind the importance of knowledge and evidence-based practices for critical care nurses is to promote high-quality and safety of nursing care to patients.³ Evidence-based care provided by a clinically competent nurse can enhance or promote the autonomy of patients, safety, and continuity of care.⁴ In addition, the main responsibilities of intensive care unit nurses are monitoring patients 24 hours a day and giving efficient direct care to them.⁵

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Among all healthcare professionals, nurses play the most important role in a healthcare setting. Nevertheless, they also face risks, challenges, and issues.⁶ The demands of their line of work require them to handle heavy workloads, put in extra hours, communicate with patients and their companions, and interact with the managers of the institution.⁷

A set of guidelines known as clinical competence for nurses directs critical care nurses to be capable of providing safe, high-quality care while safeguarding the population's health.⁸ All of a critical care nurse's credentials, which include knowledge, practice, attitude, and values, are included in nursing competency.⁹

Ocular surface disease is a frequent complication in these patient populations that is rarely given clinical attention to prevent it.¹⁰ A change in consciousness, the lack of a blinking reflex, or blinking less than five times per minute were among the various conditions that led to impairment of the eye's protective mechanisms.¹¹ The occurrence of ocular abnormalities was highly correlated with the patient's state of consciousness and the length of stay in intensive care units. Among ICU residents, ocular complications range from 42-60%.¹² According to earlier studies, the incidence rate of eye disorders among intensive care unit residents ranged from 3.6% to 89.3%, with an average occurrence of 6.8 days after admission.¹³

In addition to ongoing training and monitoring, the nursing staff should give the patient's eye special