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QUALITY OF NUKSING CARE PROVIDED TO ELDERLY PATIENTS AT TWO HOSPITALS

IN ALEXANDRIA

Thesis

Submitted To The High Institute of Public Health
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Degree of Doctor of Public Health Sciences
(Hospital Administration)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	Normal Aging Process	4
	Who is old	4
	Some Definitions Related To The elderly	4
	Factors Affecting Aging	7
	Normal Changes Accompanying Aging	8
	Gerontological Nursing	14
	Development of gerontological nursing	14
	Geriatric Specialty In Nursing	16
	Role Of Gerontological Nurse:	17
	Attitudes of The Nurses Toward Elderly People	22
	Quality Of Elderly Nursing Care	28
	Reasons for increased interest in quality of health care	
	Historical review	
	What Is Quality?	32
	Approaches To Quality Assessment	
	Donabedian's Framework For Quality Assessment	
	Patient Satisfaction.	
	Quality of Nursing Care Provided To The Elderly	
	Tools Of Measuring Quality Of Nursing Care	
П	AIM OF THE WORK	. 48
ш	MATERIAL AND METHODS	
IV	RESULTS	
\mathbf{v}	DISCUSSION	
	Structure	•
	Process	i
	Outcome	
VI	CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATION	- 4
VII	SUMMMARY	i
VIII	REFERENCES	1
	APPENDICES	<u> </u>
	PROTOCOL	,
	ARABIC SUMMARY	

LIST OF TABLES

Table		rage
I	Distribution of study units according to degree of availability of various items of	64
	equipment needed for activities of daily living and safety of the elderly in the two	
	hospitals according to the head nurses opinion (Alex. 1997-1998)	
II	Distribution of study units according to degree of availability of some items of	67
	equipment needed for technical care of the elderly in the two hospitals according to the	
	head nurses opinion (Alex. 1997-1998)	68
III	Distribution of the patients in the two hospitals according to some demographic and	00
	medical characteristics (Alex. 1997-1998)	=0
IV	The various aspects of care received by study cases during their hospital days at the	70
	Main Alexandria University Hospital according to provider of care and patient	į
	classification by degree of dependency in performing activities of daily living ((Alex.	!
	1997-1998)	72
V	The various aspects of care received by study cases during their hospital days at Gamal	1
	Abd El Naser Hospital according to provider of care and patient classification by	-
	degree of dependency in performing activities of daily living ((Alex 1997-1998)	74
VI	Assistance of completely dependent and partially dependent cases during their hospital	/4
	days at Main Alexandria University Hospital according to person providing assistance	İ
	(Alex.1997-1998)	
VII	Assistance of completely dependent and partially dependent cases during their hospital	75
	days at Gamal Abd El Naser Hospital according to person providing assistance	!
	(Alex.1997-1998)	!
VIII	Performance and recording in patient's record of some items of nursing care during	77
	hospital days of study cases in the two hospitals (Alex. 1997-1998)	1
IX	Application of main steps of measuring body temperature in the two hospitals	78
	(Alex.1997-1998)	
X:	Application of main steps of intravenous procedure in the two hospitals(Alex.1997-	80
	1998)	
XI:	Application of some steps of urinary catheterization procedure in the two hospitals	81
	(Alex.1997-1998)	
XII:	Health education provision to study cases about nutrition, constipation and foot care in	83
	the two hospitals (Alex. 1997-1998)	
XIII	Distribution of study nurses in the two study hospitals by some personal and professional characteristics (Alex.1997-1998)	84
XIV	Distribution of nurses in the two study hospitals according to the percent of their total	86

	score of knowledge about the elderly. (Alex.1997-1998)	
XV	Percent distribution of nurses in the two study hospitals by their level of knowledge	87
•	about normal changes in various body systems in the elderly (Alex. 1997-1998)	
XVI	Percent distribution of nurses in the two study hospitals by their level of knowledge	89
	about problems related to normal changes of the body system in the elderly (Alex.	
	1997-1998)	
XVII	Percent distribution of nurses in the two study hospitals by their level of knowledge	91
	about role of nurses regarding the common problems of the elderly (Alex. 1997-1998)	
хуш	Percent distribution of nurses in the two study hospitals by their level of knowledge	93
2.411	about side effects of some common medications used to the elderly (Alex. 1997-1998)	
XIX	Percent distribution of nurses in the two study hospitals by their level of knowledge	94
	about signs and symptoms requiring prompt reporting and nutrition for the elderly	1
	(Alex. 1997-1998)	į
XX	Stepwise multiple regression of total level of knowledge with different aspects in the	96
	two hospitals (Alex. 1997-1998)	ł {
XXI	Percent distribution of nurses in the two study hospitals according to their opinion	97
	regarding extent of their responsibility for items of hygienic care and helping the	1
	hospitalized elderly (Alex.1997-1998)	į
XXII	Percent distribution of nurses in the two study hospitals according to their opinion	99
	regarding extent of their responsibility toward some items of observation and caring of	ł
	immobile hospitalized elderly in the two study hospitals (Alex. 1997-1998)	<i>\</i>
XXIII	Percent distribution of nurses in the two study hospitals according to their opinion	101
	regarding extent of their responsibility for giving health education for some topics in	į
	the two study hospitals (Alex. 1997-1998)	į
XXIV	Percent distribution of nurses in the two study hospital according to their level of	103
	satisfaction with some items of elderly care (Alex. 1997-1998)	1
XXV	Percent distribution of study nurses in the two hospitals according to their opinion	104
	regarding degree of importance of certain barriers to provide adequate nursing care to	!
	the hospitalized elderly (Alex. 1997-1998)	<i>{</i> }
XXVI	Percent distribution of nurses in the two study hospitals by their attitudes toward	106
	different dimensions related to the elderly (Alex. 1997-1998)	
XXVII	Step wise multiple regression of overall attitude of nurses towards the elderly on	10
	several characteristics of nurses (Alex. 1997-1998)	
XXVIII	Percent score of patient perception of nurses' performance of different dimension of	109
	care in the two study hospitals (Alex. 1998-1999)	

-.

XXIX	Distribution of patients at Main Alexandria University Hospital according to their perception of the nurse's performance of different items of care related to professional competence (Alex. 1997-1998)	111
XXX:	Distribution of patients at Gamal Abd El Naser Hospital according to their perception of the nurse's performance of different items of care related to professional competence (Alex. 1997-1998)	113
XXXI	Distribution of patients at Main Alexandria University Hospital according to their perception regarding nurse's ability to provide information (Alex. 1997-1998)	115
XXXII	Distribution of patients at Gamal Abd El Naser Hospital according to their perception regarding nurse's ability to provide information (Alex. 1997-1998)	116
XXXIII	Distribution of patients at Main Alexandria University Hospital according to their perception regarding inter-personnel relationship with the nurse and maintenance of hospital environment (Alex. 1997-1998)	117
VXXX	Distribution of patients at Gamal Abd El Naser hospital according to their perception regarding inter-personnel relationship with the murse and maintenance of hospital environment (Alex. 1997-1998)	119
	Citationing (* 1201 200 200)	

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The interest in caring for the aging population is continuously increasing. This interest is attributed to the increase of numbers of elderly all over the world. This increase in number of elderly could be attributed to improvement of preventive medicine, development of public health measures and improvement in wellness lifestyles, including attention to exercise, nutrition, and the avoidance of tobacco. Also, it is related to the decline of death rate and increasing of life expectancy. (1,2,3)

Life expectancy has risen sharply in the 20^{th} century, and is expected to continue to rise, in virtually all populations throughout the world. The number of people reaching old age is therefore increasing. There are 580 million people in the world who are aged 60 years or older. This is expected to rise to 1,000 million by 2020 - a 75% increase compared with 50% for the population as a whole.⁽⁴⁾

The percent increase in elderly population in Egypt from 1992 to 2025 was estimated to be 238%, which indicates a rapid increase of elderly people. ⁽⁵⁾ In the year 2020, it is expected that the elderly people will constitute 7.9% of the total population. People aged 60 years and over were three millions in 1986 representing 6.18% of the population. They increased to 4.076 millions in