

How does nursing manifest itself in clinical practice in an acute care accident and emergency department in the Faroe Islands?

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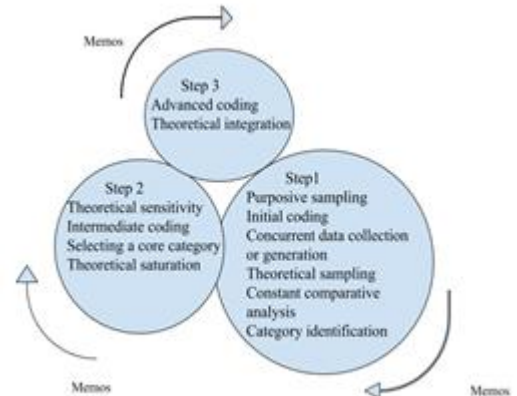
Aim and objectives

It is often said that nursing in acute care settings has become increasingly technological. Although technology helps improve observation and treatment, it may change the focus of nursing away from a caring approach that integrates the patient's physical, psychosocial and relational needs. There is limited evidence from practice to support this concern. The aim of this study is to examine how nurses perform nursing in an acute emergency care unit in the Faroe Islands.



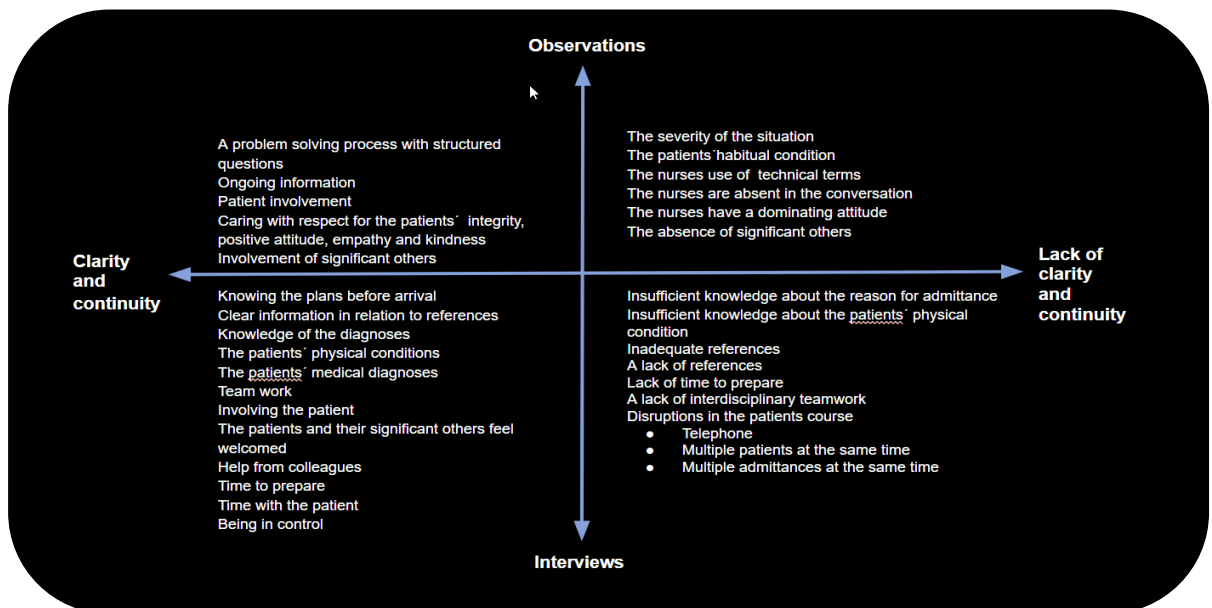
Method

The study encompassed 14 field observations and follow up semi-structured interviews with the nurses involved. The grounded theory method with a social constructivist approach was used as suggested by Charmaz (SRQR checklist was used)



Results

The findings suggest that nurses use an interpersonal and a problem-solving approach to nursing in their practice with a predominant focus on the medical problems of the patients. The observations showed that the nurses' caring activities were characterised by a focus on the patient's physical needs in a dignified and human manner. However, both attendance to the patient's emotional needs, performing fundamental care and giving information continuously, which became visible from the observations, was scarcely mentioned during the interviews but remained 'tacit'. Clarity and continuity appeared to be steering principles for the nurses' priorities in their work. These principles were visible in both observations and interviews and could explain how nurses carry out nursing in an ECU department.



Conclusion

The ability to obtain clarity and continuity may influence how nursing is performed at an ECU unit.

Relevance to clinical practice

- Strengthened communication processes and teamwork in emergency care may contribute to clarity and continuity for nurses and patients in the ECU.
- Workplace conditions and relationships play significant roles in the nurses' ability to gain clarity and continuity in their work.

Keywords

Nursing practice, emergency care unit, fundamental care, constructionist grounded theory