Abstract

RESEARCH STUDY: Relationship of Nurses’ Knowledge and Preparedness and the End of Life Pain management

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Pain, either acute or chronic, is an important issue in the quality of life of a patient at the end of their life. Lack of proper pain management may be due to decreased comfort levels of nurses, lack of knowledge/experience, negative attitudes and perceptions of pain control, and under-prescribing of analgesic medications by the physicians. The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship among the nurses’ educational level, the amount of continuing education on palliative care, and how prepared they feel they are in caring for end of life patients. Kolcaba’s Theory of Comfort is the framework for which this study is based on. The sample will consist of an anticipated pool of 2500 potential participants of Licensed Nurses who have been practicing nursing for over five years and are providing palliative end of life care and 50 of their patients receiving the palliative care. The Nursing Cognitive Assessment of Pain Management (NCAPM) tool will be used to determine the pain management practices of the nursing participants. The Pain Management Experience Evaluation (PMEE) tool and Patient’s Pain Management Interview Guide (PPMIG) tool will be used for the end of life participants to determine their level and satisfaction of pain management by the nurse. Results from this study will provide information for quality improvement in future nursing practices related to providing effective palliative end of life pain management.