Qualitative Research Critique

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Oluwakemi, you addressed the required elements for the assignment. The introduction to the topic is present, but the purpose statement for your paper is missing. You need to add more information related to the study methods and the way the data was analyzed. Include more information related to the study participants. Please review the comments in the paper and reference page.

**Qualitative Research Critique**

Nurses play a significant role in the processes of fostering effective delivery of services in acute and intensive care settings. ~~On the other hand,~~ all healthcare operations seek to ensure that the patients served are presented with higher levels of safety to minimize adverse incidents. However, it is important to note that the incorporation of autonomy aids members of the nursing profession as a strategy of fostering ample decision making and critical thinking. While nurses are obliged to work as pharmacovigilant intermediaries, they must be availed with an environment that fosters autonomy to comply with the hand washing procedures needed to enhance patient safety in critical care settings. The purpose of this paper is to review two qualitative study articles on the use of proper hand hygiene before providing care to patients during the hospital stay can significantly decrease the incidence of hospital acquired infections. The background, methods, findings and ethical considerations for both study articles will be provided below. Also discussed will be how these articles support the PICOT developed by this writer for a proposed change project.

**Background of Study**

The article by Johansson-Pajala et al. (2016) seeks to explore the experiences portrayed by registered nurses on the aspects of medication management in municipal care facilities that deal with elderly populaces in Sweden. To meet their objectives, the researchers put a lot of emphasis on the pharmacovigilant activities depicted by the elderly populaces in municipal care settings. The study is based on the nature of safe and appropriate administration of medication as an issue of concern among bedside nurses, caregivers and healthcare professionals across the globe (citation). The fact that medication is a common aspect of offering ample care among the elderly in health care settings calls for effective adoption of the science of pharmacovigilance which incorporates the acts of identifying, evaluating, comprehending and minimizing the adverse effects of drugs and drug-related challenges among registered nurses. While patients aged above 70 tend to present with polypharmacy as a prevalent phenomenon, the scholars demystify that the prescription rates accorded among these patients is highly dependent on the needs presented by individual patients (citation). However, inappropriate medication is considered as one of the commonest problems that are associated with an increase in the risk levels of adverse drug events among nurses and caregivers that deal with such populaces. Barriers to safe medication such as limited knowledge, time constraints, team interruptions, distractions, and registered nurse doubts on their responsibilities have exposed elderly patients to great risks. Similarly, the study emphasizes on the importance of incorporating ample medication management procedures among nurses through effective documentation as a strategy of enhancing the quality of care (citation).

 ~~On the other hand,~~ The article by AllahBakhshian et al. (2017) ~~proceeds with the aim of~~ ~~investigating~~ investigates the barriers to autonomy among nurses working in intensive care units (ICU) in Iran. The scholars describe ICU settings as high pressure environments that deal with critically ill patients. As such, nurses working in ICU settings are faced with the obligation of making urgent decisions whenever they are presented with deteriorating patients. In this case, nurses working in ICU settings need to be accorded higher levels of autonomy as a motivational element to enhance career satisfaction and critical thinking (citation). As essential members of the health care team, nurses are faced with the critical obligation of acting in the interest of their patients. The researchers reveal that nurses that present with higher levels of autonomy in their operations are most likely to provide their patients with high quality care and safety while decreasing the levels of mortality. Such a premise is based on the important role played by professional autonomy in fostering an increase in the sense of engagement and personal accountability (citation).

**How the two articles Support the Nursing Practice Issue Chosen**

The PICOT question adopted by the study is: “For the patients in long-term and acute care facilities (P), how does enhancing hand washing procedure compliance among health practitioners (I) compared to not complying with the procedure (C) reduce infections acquired in hospitals (O) for the period of hospitalization (T)?” The article by Johansson-Pajala et al. (2016) supports the nursing issue chosen by revealing the roles played by registered nurses in medication management. Hand hygiene is one of the most essential elements of effective medication management and disease control when dealing with elderly populaces (citation). The article contributes to the topic of study by obliging nurses to incorporate pharmacovigilant operations such as encouraging ample hand washing techniques among members of their interdisciplinary teams and taking on responsibilities that go beyond their formal assignments while putting the best interests of the patient under consideration.

 ~~On the other hand,~~ The article by AllahBakhshian et al. (2017) contributes to the PICOT question developed by emphasizing on the roles played by nurses in fostering urgent clinical decisions among members of a multidisciplinary team. Nurses working in acute and intensive care settings are faced with the obligation of reducing healthcare-associated infections by improving their hand hygiene strategies. Most of the health care associated infections that manifest among nurses tend to emerge from non-adherence to the internationally set procedures of controlling diseases and hand washing as a recommended practice when availing patient care (citation). However, such operations can only be enhanced in instances where nurses are accorded an operational environment that promotes higher levels of autonomy to allow the professionals to engage in activities such as hand washing which promote improved patient outcomes.

**Method**

The article by AllahBakhshian et al. (2017) adopted a qualitative study design with a semi-structured in-depth interviews to collect data. ~~method~~. One of the greatest strengths of the semi-structured in-depth methodology adopted emanates from its ability to avail qualitative data that boasts of higher levels of reliability and comparability (citation). However, the method is limited by the risk of over-construing. Similarly, the study method was limited by the fact that it only put into consideration bedside nurses as the key participants (citation).

 ~~On the other hand,~~ The article by Johansson-Pajala et al. (2016) incorporated a qualitative study design with focused discussions. The strengths of the method adopted emanates from the fact that the focus group discussions used fostered higher levels of trustworthiness due to the inclusion of multiple authors. Similarly, the ability of the researchers to include participants with diversified work experience and a considerable age spread (27-65) years played a significant role in the process of enriching the findings and discussions. However, the study presented some levels of limitation in the process adopted to recruit the participants (citation).

**Results**

The study by Johansson-Pajala et al. (2016) found out that registered nurses working in long term care settings can be considered as effective vigilant intermediaries in the drug treatments assigned to their patients. Similarly, the study found out that nurses play the role of essential mediators between physicians, patients and other staff and compensate for operational shortcomings. The results of the study present strong implications in nursing practice as they advocate for further development of safe medication strategies and the incorporation of team-based approaches that promote shared responsibility.

 ~~On the other hand,~~ The results presented by AllahBakhshian et al. (2017) revealed that autonomy among nurses is limited by lack of influential professional bodies and the capacity to put autonomy into practice. Similarly, the researchers consider lack of motivation and role ambiguity as the institutional barriers that hindered autonomy among nurses. The results of the study can be replicated in pother settings to promote strong and united nurse communities with the aim of fostering professional authority as an aspect of autonomy.

**Ethical Considerations**

Voluntary participation and informed consent are the two most important ethical considerations when dealing with human subjects (citation). According to Biros (2018), informed consent seeks to ensure that the individuals participating in a particular research are well aware of the assessment being conducted. ~~On the other hand,~~ Voluntary participation allows human subjects to participate in a study without coercion. The two articles adopted for review met the conditions of informed consent and voluntary participation. For instance, the article by AllahBakhshian et al. (2017) only recruited the participants on a voluntary basis with consent from the Ethics Committee of Isfahan University of Medical Sciences. On the other hand, the article by Johansson-Pajala et al. (2016) sought the approval of the Regional Ethical Review Board Uppsala ~~(Dno. 2013/488)~~ and obtained consent from the participants.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, nurses play an active role in the processes of fostering medication safety when dealing with patients in long term care settings. The nature of the nursing profession as the pivot point of the health care system calls for inclusion of a motivating environment. Nurses need to be exposed to a significant amount of autonomy to ensure that they are adequately empowered to avail ample services in the self-regulating work environment and to make clinical decisions that portray their levels of clinical judgment. As such, nurses must be well motivated to promote certain lifesaving procedures such as hand washing and adherence to the clinically set medication procedures in long term and acute care settings.

**References**

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