ABSTRACT

Title: Management Preparedness of Nurses during Emergency & Disaster

Situations at Rizal Medical Center: Basis for Evaluation.

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The study aimed to determine the Management Preparedness of Nurses during

Emergency and Disaster situations at Rizal Medical Center.

Specifically. It sought answer to the following questions.

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:

1.1 Age

1.2 Gender

1.3 Civil Status

1.4 Highest Educational Attainment

1.5 Length of Service;

2. Disaster preparedness of the respondents in terms of;

2.1 Disaster knowledge and awareness;

2.2 Attitudes and willingness to report for duty during emergency and disaster;

2.3 Practices on disaster Preparedness;

3.Significance difference between the profile and knowledge, attitudes and practices of the respondents towards disaster and emergency preparedness.

4. Enhancement Training program

The researcher used Descriptive–Correlational design to determine the relationship between the profiles and the knowledge, attitude and practicesof the respondents towards emergency and disaster preparedness of staff nurses in Rizal Medical Center. The respondents of the study were limited 30 randomly selected staff nurses who have more than one year clinical experience in Rizal Medical Center

The researcher utilized the self structured questionnaire based on related literature reviewed and distributed within the hospital premises. The study made use of the frequency and percentage distribution & weighted mean and analysis of variance as statistical tools in the analysis of data.

**Conclusion**

In view of the findings of the study, the following conclusions are drawn:

1. Majority of the nurse respondents were female belonged to young adult which garnered the highest percentage in terms of frequency. Most of the respondents were BSN/RN and served more than seven (7) years at Rizal Medical Center.
2. The management preparedness of nurses at Rizal Medical Center during disaster and emergency cases were evaluated as follows, in terms of knowledge and awareness they gave an evaluation of aware, for attitude and willingness they made an evaluation of strongly agree, and for practices they gave an evaluation of often.
3. There is a significant difference in the management preparedness of nurses at Rizal Medical Center (RMC) during disaster and emergency cases in terms of knowledge and awareness, attitude and willingness to report for duty, and practices.
4. Based on the results of the study the level of competency of emergency nurses in terms of practices must be proposed to enhance during disaster and emergency, specifically, the Rmc nurses must knowledgeable on the drills should be regularly conducted and participated in the hospital. Since, hospital disaster drills are effective in allowing hospital employees especially nurses to become familiar with the disaster procedures, identify problems in different components in response like incident command system, triage, patients flow, materials, resources and security) and provide the opportunity to apply lessons learned to disaster response. And also, training of staff who is involved in emergency planning and response is fundamental to an organizations ability to handle any type of emergency. Planning for emergencies cannot be considered reliable until it is exercised and has proved to be workable, especially since false confidence maybe placed in the integrity of a written plan. While, competencies of nurses in disaster management should not be taken for granted. Disaster nursing are in a unique position to participate in all aspects of disaster response, including triage, stabilization, definitive care and evacuation. A nurse must be able to perform under stressful and often suboptimal conditions, posses unique skill sets that allow nurses to be highly effective in disaster response. Disaster competencies of nurses that need to possess are (a) describe the chain of command in emergency response; (b) identify and locate the agency’s emergency response plan; (c) describe emergency response functions and roles and demonstrate it in regularly performed drills; (d) demonstrate the use of equipment and the skills required in emergency response during regular drills; (e) demonstrate the correct operation of all equipment use for emergency communication;(f) describe communication roles in emergency response; (g) identify the limit of knowledge, skill and authority, and identify key system resources for referring matters that exceeds these limits (h) apply creative problem-solving skills and flexible thinking to the situation; (i) recognize deviation from the norms that might indicate an emergency and describe appropriate action; (j) participate in continuing education to maintain up-to-date knowledge in relevant areas; (k) participate in evaluating every drill or response and identify necessary changes to the plan. Since, health care facilities are the strength of the people during emergencies and disasters. They functions to save lives and provide essential health care such as laboratories, medicines, treatment and rehabilitation. They are the symbol of hope during critical times. One of its objectives is to share good practices...to further disaster reduction within the context of attaining sustainable development. Among the priorities for action in reducing underlying risk factors is to: (a) promote the goal of hospital safe from disaster by ensuring that all new hospitals are built with level of resilience that strengthens their capacity to remain functional in disaster situation. (b) implement mitigation measures to enforce existing health facilities , particularly those providing primary health care; and (c) protect and strengthen critical public facilities and physical infrastructure, including hospitals through proper design, retrofitting and rebuilding in order to render them adequately resilient to hazard. However, hospitals are important institutions. They are places where patients needed medical treatment and access to vital health services. Hospitals are important economic and social investment. They represent an investment a community’s sense of security and well-being and are symbols of social progress and development. Hospitals are vital to the community everyday and even more when disaster or emergency occurs. When hospitals fail at this critical moment, we face human tragedy.

**Recommendation**

In the light of findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are hereby presented for considerations:

1. Conduct in-service drills, training, and workshops related to the degree of preparedness of staff nurses during disaster and emergency cases.
2. Make competencies of nurses assign at emergency room part of the orientation program of the hospital.
3. Propose information programs/seminars on the general principles about preparedness of nurses during disaster and emergency cases in terms of knowledge, attitude, and practices for quality patient care, in the hospital.
4. Provide continuing education program regarding to enhance knowledge, attitude, and practices of staff nurses that will contribute to the improvement of quality patient care.
5. Do further studies on the preparedness of staff nurses during disaster and emergency cases contributing to the improvement of quality patient care.