



Kerman University of Medical Science

School of Nursing and Midwifery



Intensive care and oncology nurses' knowledge about and attitude towards palliative care as well as their views on barriers to the provision of palliative care in hospitals supervised by Kerman University of Medical Science in 2012

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Abstract

Background and Objectives: Palliative care requires nurses to have positive attitude towards palliative care and to be knowledgeable about it. In addition, barriers to the provision of palliative care remains unknown and thus still exist even in developed countries. Thus this study was conducted to examine intensive care and oncology nurses' knowledge about and attitude towards palliative care as well as their views on barriers to the provision of care in palliative units.

Methods: 140 Intensive care and oncology nurses in three hospitals supervised by Kerman University of Medical Science with consideration of ethical issues completed the Questionnaires. The instrument consisted of 4 questionnaires: 1) background information, 2- palliative care quiz for nurses (PCQN) consisted of 20 items, 3- nurses' attitude toward palliative care consisted of 34 items, 3- nurses' views on barriers to palliative care provision consisted of 26 items. Ultimately collected data analyzed by SPSS.18 and using descriptive and analysis statistics.

Results: In PCQN, the mean score was 7.59 (SD: 2.28). And, participants had moderately negative to neutral attitude towards palliative care (mean 2.99, SD 0.29). Moreover, nurses indicated a neutral to moderately positive views on presence of proposed barriers of providing palliative care (mean 3.30, SD 0.72).

Conclusion: These finding suggest that nurses' knowledge about and attitudes towards palliative care and consequently provision of palliative care can be improved by establishing specific palliative care unit to focus on end of life care. This establishment requires incorporation of End-of-Life Nursing Education Curriculum into undergraduate nursing studies.

Keywords: palliative care, nurses, knowledge, attitude, barriers