E3-2: Advocacy from the Medical-Surgical Nurse Perspective: A Content Analysis

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Abstract:
Introduction: Nursing advocacy for patients is viewed as a vital role for the nursing profession; however, there is little empirical research regarding nursing advocacy. The medical-surgical nursing specialty is the largest specialty in acute care settings, but few advocacy studies have focused exclusively on this sample.

Method(s): The purpose of this study was to explore the nurse advocacy actions and workplace support for advocacy using written narrative responses to a mailed survey using a medical-surgical nursing sample of 325 registered nurses. Three questions regarding advocacy actions, workplace support for advocacy actions, and how the nurse is following patient desires while advocating. The resulting data was analyzed and categorized using a quantitative content analysis method outline by Weber and frequencies were calculated for each category.

Results: The responses help to illuminate the dimensions of advocate role such as advocacy actions and workplace support from the perspective of the participants, including areas for improvement in nursing practice. The narrative responses to the first narrative question indicated that ensuring safety, communicating with patient and family, communicating with other health care team members, and questioning and ensuring adequate care were part of the advocacy actions. The narrative responses for question two, indicated a majority of positive institutional response; however, the category of minimal institutional support was the second largest response category for this question with 45 responses. The last open-ended narrative question concerned following the patient’s wishes while acting as a nurse advocate. The majority of participants indicated that they were following patient wishes when advocating by interacting and
communicating with patient and family, assessing and reviewing wishes and desires of the patient, acting on and following wishes and desires of patients, interacting and communicating with other health care professionals, and following advance directives.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** The findings of this study help to illuminate the participants responses on the actions of advocacy, the workplace support for advocacy actions, and how the nurse assures that the patient wishes are being followed when advocating.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

**Financial Disclosure:**
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**FDA Disclosure:**
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

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