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DETERMINANTS OF CLINICAL UTILIZATIONS OF THE NURSING PROCESS BY NURSES: A STUDY AT THE 37 MILITARY HOSPITAL, ACCRA

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ABSTRACT

The focus of this study was to explore what nurses at the 37 military hospital in Accra, Ghana know about the nursing process and whether their ability to use the nursing process is influenced by their knowledge. The study employed an exploratory descriptive qualitative design and the target population was all registered nurses. Participants were purposefully selected and those willing to participate in the study were given consent form to read and sign. In all, ten (10) participants were interviewed. The interviews with the permission of the study participants were recorded and it was analyzed using content analysis. From the analysis of the data three main themes emerged with their sub-themes. It was found that the nurses have acquired basic knowledge on the nursing process but lacked the needed skills to do a proper assessment on the patient, lacked the knowledge about how to formulate nursing diagnoses and there was no systematic and organized planning of the care that they provided to the patients. From the findings it is recommended that, the nursing process should be taught at each year or level of the nursing training institutions, periodic in-service should be organize for nurse clinicians and nursing tutors on the nursing process and nurses must be regularly supervised to ensure that they practice what they have been taught at school. It will be very important for a similar study to be conducted in the other teaching hospitals in Ghana to get the real picture of the extent of utilization of the nursing process in Ghana.

KEYWORDS: Nursing Process, Nurses Knowledge, Nursing Diagnosis, Assessment