



Name: Warley Do Amaral

Student ID: 2417999

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Lecturer: Eleni Koutsogeorgou

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Table of Contents

1.1 Introduction.....	3
2 Nurse in Health and Social Care Field.....	3
2.1 Description of Nurse in Health and Social Care.....	3
2.2 Explanation of Most Significant Skills Needed for Nurse in Health and Social Care.....	3
3 Strategies for Skill Improvement for Nurse.....	4
3.1 Three Strategies to Improve the Skills for [INSERT YOUR ROLE HERE].....	4
4 Conclusion.....	4
5 Reference List.....	5

1.1 Introduction

In today's health and social care environments, healthcare professionals play an integral role in ensuring public health, fostering well-being of patients, and achieving quality care provision. The present report aims at examining the vital importance of the Registered Nurse in the health and social care sector, paying particular attention to structured preparation and evidence-based practice that lead to clinical excellence.

First of all, the report starts with providing an overview of the basic responsibilities, importance, and skills of the Registered Nurse. Then, it proceeds to the discussion of the three most important skills—communication, critical thinking, and technical accuracy—as well as the effects that emerge in case such skills are missing in action.

2 Registered Nurse in the Health and Social Care Sector

2.1 Definition of Registered Nurse in Health and Social Care

The role of nurses in the sphere of health and social care should be estimated in the light of their services that are performed in the form of coordination and advocacy. Their role is extremely significant for two main reasons: first, it concerns the efficiency of the clinical process, and second, the safety of the patient and work efficiency of the multidisciplinary team. Nurses have an opportunity to identify changes in the health state of the patient due to their interaction with him/her (World Health Organization, 2020).

The core roles of Registered Nurses include conducting comprehensive health assessments, administration of drugs per prescription, undertaking clinical procedures, and maintaining proper health records. Apart from that, nurses provide emotional and educational support to their clients and families at a very crucial time. For the successful execution of these roles, nurses should possess several competencies in different domains. The core competencies of nurses include proper interprofessional communication skills, clinical reasoning skills, pharmacology skills, empathy, and advanced technology skills (Blouin and Podjasek, 2019).

Topic Sentence: Reflective critical thinking is the main cognitive competency for nurses to evaluate difficult data and handle deteriorating patients.

Explanation: The process of providing bedside care involves the constant gathering of physiological information, identification of risks, and prompt evidence-based decision-making amidst tremendous pressures. Critical thinking helps nurses go past standard procedures and predict possible clinical issues before they become serious (World Health Organization, 2020).

Example: For instance, in cases where a patient exhibits signs of mild confusion accompanied by an increase in heart rate, the critical thinker will see the beginning of sepsis and order blood cultures and fluid resuscitation instead of considering those signs as agitation.

Link: Therefore, the presence of critical thinking skills substantially reduces the number of failure-to-rescue cases and increases patient survival chances.

Sentence about the technical competence: Technical competence of pharmacological intervention that has to be ensured in order to avoid biological issues in calculating, preparing, and administering drugs.

Explanation: Since the pharmacological agents are chemicals, any wrong dosage, administration, and timing of their application may lead to harm or even death from drugs. Technical competence will make nurses' actions justified and safe for patients (Blouin and Podjasek, 2019).

Example: A good example of such a principle can be seen when nurses calculate the right dosage of insulin with the help of Five Rights before giving the drug to the patient.

Connection with the next technical competence: It will ensure that the intervention leads to the expected results.

Topic Sentence: In contrast, when such skills are absent in healthcare providers, it is inevitable for there to be breakdowns in the system and serious harm done to patients.

Explanation: Communication problems result in fragmented care and missed clinical information, while the absence of critical thinking hinders the ability to detect signs of deterioration in a patient. In addition, technical inaccuracy makes medication mistakes increase exponentially, thus adversely affecting healthcare provision (World Health Organization, 2020).

Example: For example, an uncommunicative nurse who does not tell about declining oxygen saturation levels of a patient to the next nurse on duty will be unable to help because of lacking critical thinking skills.

Link: In conclusion, inadequate competencies create a threat to patient safety and harm the therapeutic relationship as well.

3 Strategies for Skill Improvement for Registered Nurse

3.1 Three Strategies to Improve the Skills for Registered Nurse

Topic sentence: In order to enhance assertiveness, the RNs may make use of standard methods of communication during handover procedures including SBAR along with simulation.

Explanatory sentence: The process of verbal communication through the standardized method occurs systematically by following four main components: Situation, Background, Assessment, and Recommendation. The adoption of communication method in simulations enables the nurses to communicate information without any unnecessary delays and talk (Blouin and Podjasek, 2019).

Example sentence: During the application of HFS in practice, the nurse asks the older physician to review the drug using the SBAR method.

Link: Studies reveal that adopting standard communication methods is highly beneficial for avoiding errors due to communication in urgent care settings (International Council of Nurses, 2021).

Topic Sentence: The use of Clinical Reasoning Cycles together with reflective journal writing is an excellent way to develop cognitive critical thinking abilities.

Explanation: During Clinical Reasoning Cycles, nurses gain the ability to organize information, detect problems, establish outcomes, implement solutions, and evaluate those outcomes. If one practices this with reflective journal writing after the shift, one will be able to critically think about his/her previous clinical decisions, realize possible cognitive biases, and become better at reasoning in the future (World Health Organization, 2020).

Example: For example, in the case when the nurse deals with the complicated diabetic ketoacidosis condition, he/she will be able to make a structured reflection regarding the reasons for giving some clinical symptoms priority.

Connecting Sentence: It is shown by the research that structured reflective practice promotes development of clinical decision-making competencies and reduces the number of diagnostic errors in the acute care setting (American Psychological Association, 2020).

Topic sentence: Pharmacological accuracy can continue to be made more accurate via the compulsory execution of the Independent Double-Check (IDDC) process as well as dose verification software.

Elaboration: Independent Double-Check entails the independent calculation and checking of high-risk medication dosages by two qualified personnel, prior to administering any of the drugs in question. IDCC is designed to purposely delay the process so as to identify any mathematical errors that may have occurred when calculating dosages before it affects the patients (Blouin and Podjasek, 2019).

Example: In a pediatrics ward, one nurse will independently calculate the dose of the intravenous antibiotics using dose verification software while another nurse repeats the same process before both agree on the EHR of the patient.

Link: Scientific research has proven that compulsory double-check processes significantly reduce errors during medication administrations.

4 Conclusion

The development of key nursing competencies like communication, critical thinking, and technical accuracy is essential in order to provide safe and quality care. The present report has outlined the important role played by the Registered Nurse, the potential risks that could occur due to lack of skills, and evidence-based solutions like SBAR handovers, reflective reasoning loops, and double checks that would allow for ongoing professional development. Combining these interpersonal, cognitive, and clinical skills is necessary in order to help nurses reduce the risk and improve patient's outcomes.

5 Reference List

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