Patient Classification System based on Dependency of Nursing Care

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Challenge

- Provide high quality care
- Contain the costs

- More flexibility from the organisations
- More rational use of the existing structures
History

1982

Ministry of Health

Information System to Hospital Management

Patient Classification System based on Dependency of Nursing Care Levels
History

• Wide asymmetry regarding the nurses distribution

? Were the differences justified?

? Were they a consequence of an inefficient planning?
Project

- Create results
- Allow a more adjusted allocation of nurses
- Meeting the real needs of the patients
Goals

• Development of tools to measure the number of nursing hours needed for each patient

• Train hospital managers in using the information
Task

Choose a patient classification system

- Subjective
- Objective
PCS/N consists of classifying inpatients by critical activity indicators, according to their nursing care needs.
Characteristics

- Individual
- Objective
- Prospective
- Easy to understand
- Daily
- Global
- Flexible
Patient Classification System
based on Dependency of Nursing Care (PCS/N)

Constraints

- Complexity and high costs of construction

Advantages

- Accuracy in calculating the number of minutes really required
- Easiness of its implementation
The Development of Tools: Phases

1. Identify the main nursing activities of direct care
2. Check the percentage
3. Ascertained the standard time
4. Determine the frequency of the direct care provision
5. Validate the model of the patient classification chart
6. Identify the indirect care of nursing activities
7. Develop a conversion table
Direct care
Activities which mean the provision of care to a patient to satisfy his/her daily needs

Indirect care
Activities which being part of the care provided to patients are cannot be identified as specifically to one patient
Basic Formula

Total Care Hours = Direct nursing hour care + Indirect nursing hour care
(listed and unlisted)
Objective of the PCS/N

Provide an information tool, allowing the rational management of the human resources through the optimisation of the available nursing staff.
Goals of the application of the PCS/N

• Optimise the number of nurses available
• Plan the delivery of nursing care
• Identify the needs regarding the nurses staff
• Adjust the allocation of the hospital staff
Organizational requirements

- Provision of nursing care based on individual method
- Existence of the nursing process model
- Existence of a definitions and procedures manual
- Applied to patients admitted for a 24 hour period or more
Application

The method is implemented in 52 of the 100 hospitals from the Portuguese Health System and also the Rehabilitation Centre of Alcoitão
Patient Classification System
based on Dependency of Nursing Care (PCS/N)
Implementation

- Internal Medicine (cardiology, gastroenterology, infectious diseases, nephrology, neurology and geriatrics)
- Surgery (gynaecology, urology, neurosurgery)
- Obstetrics
- Orthopedic
- Oncology
- Pediatrics
- Rehabilitation
Management indicators

1. Number of hours of nursing care required per inpatient/per day (HCR/ID)
2. Number of hours of care provided by inpatient/by day (HCP/ID)
3. Staff workload rate
HCR/ID evolution
Patient Classification System based on Dependency of Nursing Care (PCS/N)

Nursing care hours required per inpatient/per day (HCR/ID) 2007

- Surgery
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Orthopedics
- Obstetrics
Internal Audits

Ensure the reliability of the data generated in each service and verify the accomplishment of the patients’ classification regulations

External Audits

Ensure the reliability of the data generated per hospital
Conclusion

• The most important achievement of the PCS/N is its contribution for improving the organisational and managerial systems of the hospitals

• The outcomes indicate the shortness of nurses in internal medicine units

• The allocation of the available resources in conformity to the patients’ real needs
Conclusion

• The influence of the organisational culture in a very positive way

• The existence of an information system available
Future goals

1. Work in new patient’s classification charts
2. Actualization of the existing charts
3. Improve the informatics tool to obtain an automatic patient classification
4. Total implementation of the PCS/N in the National Health Care Hospitals