

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE

Costs and benefits of nursing clinical education for hospital institutions

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KEYWORDS

Education;
Nursing;
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Citizen satisfaction;
Care

Abstract

Introduction: The Nursing Degree Course (NDC) internships realization is assumed as a pertinent study problem for the teaching and hospital institutions, in a way to improve the learning processes and the efficiency of management.

Objective: To identify the clinical teaching formation costs of nursing students in hospital institutions it was decided to measure through the analysis of a structure indicator the material resources, through a process indicator the human resources on the time spent by nurses provisioning care to patients, and through a results indicator the degree of citizen satisfaction, always having in mind the comparative analysis of hospital costs between the presence and absence of nursing students in Clinical Teachings.

Material and method: A descriptive-correlational and transversal study was realized on the Hospital, on the year 2011, involving Medicine and Surgery Services, where the Clinical Teachings of the Health School NDC take place.

Results: The research protocol included a "Documental Corpus" with a list of 26 consumed supplies of the year, an observation grid, for the registration of time of direct cares provided by nurses during 159 observations, and a Citizen Satisfaction Facing Nursing Care Scale, in a sample of 115 citizens inpatient in the services.

Conclusion: The inferences show that the presence of students in Clinical Teachings in the hospitals leads to a positive balance of 21.57 € per day and service, with a positive reinforcement associated to the resulting citizens satisfaction facing student rendered cares.

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Introduction

The high number of nursing schools in Portugal and consequent immoderate number of students in formation, which went from 2195 in 1999 to 15 851 in 2007,^{2-4,15} led to the need for a greater number of internship fields in hospitals, associating cost increases on the formation.⁷⁻¹¹

The search domains result from these assumptions, based on personal and professional experiences in hospital and formative context,^{13,23} whose process of interinstitutional collaboration, has been problematic.^{5,14,28} Under the administrative point of view,⁷ this collaboration referred to as “cordial”,⁹ involves the pedagogic component, material, human and physical resources, leading to an increase in costs to the hospital, not always reasoned.

We this way question whether the care provided by nursing students in clinical education (CE) increases hospital costs regarding materials consumption, decreased time of permanence of nurses with the patients and decreased degree of citizen satisfaction, having as goals of the research: a) to identify the cost of material consumption associated with the nursing care on medical and surgical services, per student and clinical education; b) to assess whether the presence of nursing students decreases the time available for the nursing care; and c) compare the degree of citizens satisfaction facing the nursing care provided by nurses and students.

Materials and methods

Investigation of quantitative and observational nature, and descriptive-correlational analysis, integrating 3 studies, developed in a hospital unit of Portugal’s center region, integrating 4 medicine and 4 Surgery services, having previously been requested authorization for the collection of the documentary corpus on the consumption of materials, implementation of the observations and accounting of the time of direct care provided to patients by nurses in the services, and evaluation of citizen’s satisfaction with the care provided by nursing professionals. These studies were carried out in the course of the year of 2011.

The research’s schematic representation seeks to describe the influence of the Health School of Viseu’s (HSV) students in CE, in the months of January, May, June, July, November and December, in hospital organizational results in terms of material consumption as a structure indicator, on time of care provided by nurses as process indicator, and satisfaction of the citizen facing the nursing care provided as a result indicator compared to the period of their absence in the months of February, March, April, August, September and October (Fig. 1).

As strategy for data collection, for the first study, the monthly listings of 26 items related to nursing care, ordered to the warehouses of clinical and hotelier material from the Hospital were used. For the accounting of on-call time of

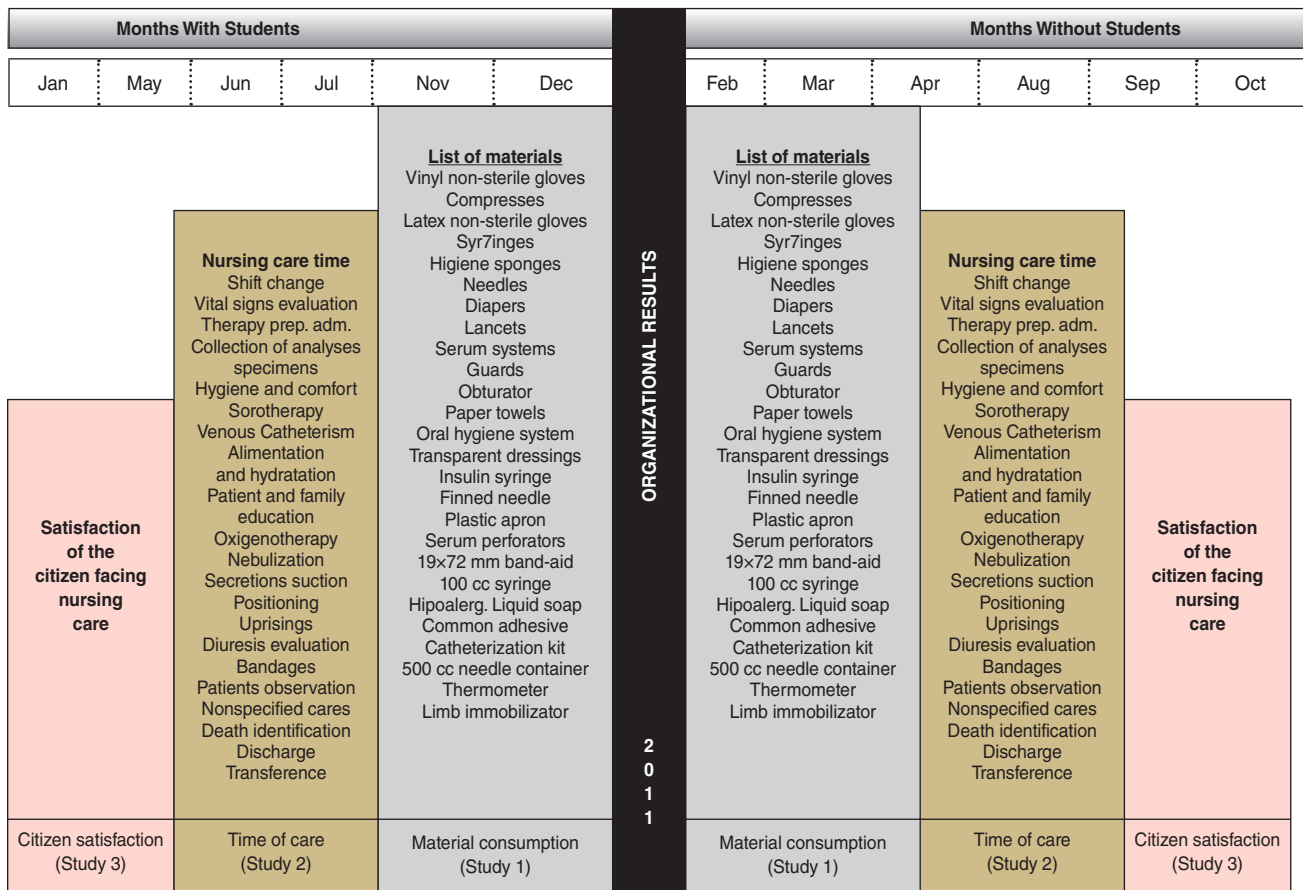


Figure 1 Conceptual schema of research.

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