STUDENT NURSES'LEVEL OF COMPETENCY IN NUMERICAL DATA CALCULATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Nursing students are deficient in the skill necessary to calculate medication dosages and intravenous fluid rate accurately. Their ability to administer medications safely becomes questionable. It is assumed that The students academic status have an influence over their success in the nursing program.

The objective of this study is to examine student nurses calculation ability and to investigate the relationship between academic status and calculation ability among student nurses undergoing Diploma Nursing Program in UCSI University. The model of prediction of success in nursing by Higgs (1994) provided the theoretical framework. A descriptive correlational, corss-sectional study was used. A total of 100students participated in the study.

Results show that 60% of the students for medication calculation and 48% of students for intravenous fluid rate calculation were unable to achieve 100% in both these skills. A high grades in mathematics did not indicate good performance in numeracy. From the findings of this study is can be concluded that the students nurse do have difficulties in numeracy and higher grades in pre-entry Mathematics does not guarantee competency in numeracy during nursing education.