
Clinical Nursing Practices and Patient Safety Outcomes Among Nurse Managers in Selected Level 1 Hospitals in Cavite: Basis for Policy Enhancement

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ABSTRACT

This study examined clinical nursing practices and patient safety outcomes among nurse managers in selected Level 1 hospitals in Cavite to inform policy enhancement. Specifically, it assessed the respondents' demographic profile, the extent of clinical nursing practices in terms of decision-making and leadership, nursing intervention and techniques, teamwork and communication, and professional competencies, as well as the level of patient safety outcomes in terms of error reduction, adherence to safety protocols, and quality of patient care. The study used a descriptive correlational research design, involving nurse managers and supervisors from selected hospitals through total enumeration sampling. Data were collected using a validated self-administered questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The finding revealed that respondents were highly educated professionals. The overall extent of clinical nursing practices was rated "Strongly Agree", indicating a high level of leadership competence, evidence-based nursing interventions, teamwork, and professional accountability. Similarly, patient safety outcomes were rated "Strongly Agree," reflecting effective error-reduction measures, strict compliance with safety protocols, and high-quality patient care. Statistical analysis showed no significant differences in most variables when grouped by demographic profile, except for sex in decision-making, leadership, and quality of patient care. The study concludes that strong clinical nursing practices contribute positively to patient safety outcomes and emphasizes the importance of continuous leadership development, evidence-based practice, and supportive organizational policies to sustain quality healthcare delivery in Level 1 hospitals.

Keywords: Clinical Nursing Practices, Patient Safety outcomes, Nurse Managers, Patient care quality, Level 1 hospitals, Policy enhancement

INTRODUCTION

Patient Safety remains a persistent problem in the Philippines, especially for hospitals facing resource limitations, workforce shortages, and rising patient demand. Healthcare institutions in the Philippines still face several problems, including medical errors, inadequate staffing, underreporting of errors, and inconsistent adherence to safety standards. According to a study that recruited over 1,000 Filipino nurses across multiple hospitals, toxic leadership behaviors among nurse managers were significantly associated with the incidence of patient falls, medication errors, healthcare-associated infections, patient complaints, and low quality of care (Labrague, 2021).

Despite all difficulties, nurse managers still play a key role in ensuring adherence to clinical policies, promoting teamwork, supervising nurses, and supporting incident reporting mechanisms. This study also examines patient safety outcomes, such as error reporting practices and adverse events, and establishes relationships among these variables.

Statement of the Problem

The study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the nurse managers and supervisors in terms of age, sex, educational attainment, and length of service
2. What is the extent of clinical nursing practices in terms of decision-making and leadership, nursing intervention and techniques, teamwork and communication, and professional competencies
3. What is the level of patient safety outcomes as perceived by the respondents in terms of error reduction, adherence to safety protocols, and quality of patient care?
4. Is there a significant relationship in the extent of clinical nursing practices when grouped
According to the respondents' profile variables
5. Is there a significant relationship in the level of patient safety outcomes when grouped according to the respondents' profile variables?
6. Based on the findings, what policy recommendations or strategies can be proposed to enhance patient safety outcomes through improved clinical nursing practices in the selected hospitals in Cavite?

Scope and Delimitations

This study examined the relationship between clinical nursing practices and patient safety outcomes among nurse managers and supervisors in selected Level 1 hospitals in Cavite. It focuses on decision-making, leadership, nursing interventions, teamwork, communication, and professional competencies to improve patient safety and quality of care. This study also considers demographic factors such as age, sex, educational attainment, and length of service. This study is limited to nurse managers and supervisors only. Data were collected through self-administered surveys, which may be affected by the respondent bias. Findings are limited to the participating hospitals and may not be generalized to other institutions or locations.

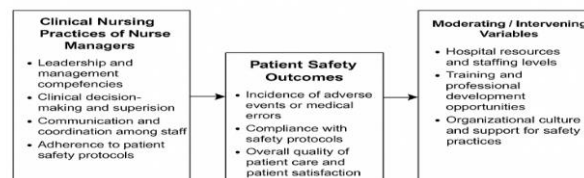
Review of Related Literature

Leadership by nurse managers is widely recognized as a key driver of patient safety culture and quality of care. A recent systematic review found positive associations between effective nurse unit manager leadership and safety-related outcomes, including fewer adverse patient events, increased staff error reporting, and higher patient satisfaction (e.g., Atypon, 2021). For instance, a 2022–2023 study of nurse managers in a university hospital identified themes such as “Perceptions of Patient Safety,” “Factors Influencing Safety,” and “Strategies to Enhance Safety,” highlighting that these leaders often face structural and resource-related barriers while also offering actionable insights for policy reform. (Yilmaz, 2025).

Theoretical Framework

Donabedian's Model of Healthcare Quality (1966), a widely recognized framework for evaluating healthcare services. According to Donabedian, healthcare quality can be assessed through three interrelated components: Structure, Process, and Outcome.

Conceptual Framework



METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative descriptive-correlational research design to analyze the relationship between clinical nursing practices and patient safety outcomes among nurse managers in selected Level 1 hospitals in Cavite. The procedures outlined will ensure that the study is conducted systematically, ethically, and with methodological rigor.

Research Design

A quantitative descriptive–correlational research design was used to collect and analyze numerical data, describe current clinical nursing practices and patient safety outcomes, and determine whether a significant relationship exists between these variables among nurse managers in selected Level 1 hospitals in Cavite.

Research Site

The research was conducted in three DOH-licensed Level 1 hospitals located in Cavite, a province known for its combination of urbanizing municipalities and rural communities. These hospitals were chosen because they provide essential healthcare services with limited resources, making clinical leadership and patient safety management highly relevant concerns. The setting offered a practical environment for examining how nurse managers navigate daily operational challenges while ensuring safe and effective nursing care.

Data Collection and Sample Selection

Data were collected using a standardized questionnaire. The questionnaire was tailored to fit the purpose, variables, and framework of this study. The process began with securing approval from the hospital's administrators and the ethics review boards of the participating institutions. After obtaining the necessary permissions, the researcher coordinated with the chief nurses to distribute the questionnaires either personally or electronically, depending on the hospital's operational policies. Participants were thoroughly briefed on the study's purpose, confidentiality measures, and voluntary nature of participation. They were encouraged to answer the questionnaire honestly and were assured that their responses would be used solely for research purposes. Completed questionnaires were retrieved after two weeks, checked for completeness, and encoded for statistical analysis.

Data Analysis Methods

The data gathered were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequency and percentage were used to describe the respondents' demographic profile, while the weighted mean and standard deviation were used to determine the levels of clinical nursing practices and patient safety outcomes. Pearson's Product–Moment Correlation Coefficient (Pearson r) was used to examine the relationship between the two variables. Independent-samples t -test and one-way ANOVA were employed to assess significant differences across demographic characteristics. All analyses were conducted using statistical software at a 0.05 significance level.

Study Limitations and Ethical Considerations

The study adhered to ethical standards by obtaining informed consent from all participants, ensuring voluntary participation, and allowing participants to withdraw at any time without penalty. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained by excluding identifying information and presenting results in aggregate, and approval was obtained from hospital administrators and ethics review boards.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study found that most nurse managers were experienced professionals aged 46 years and above, with advanced educational qualifications and long years of service. Clinical nursing practices and patient safety outcomes were both rated very highly, indicating strong leadership, effective nursing interventions, teamwork, professional competence, and adherence to safety standards. No significant differences were found in most areas when grouped according to age, educational attainment, and length of service, although sex showed significant differences in decision-making, leadership, and quality of patient care. Based on these findings, hospitals are encouraged to strengthen leadership development, promote evidence-based practices, enhance patient-centered care, improve safety monitoring systems, and support continuous professional development to further enhance patient safety outcomes.

CONCLUSIONS

This study concludes that nurse managers in Cavite's Level 1 hospitals demonstrate highly effective clinical practices—particularly in leadership, interventions, and teamwork—that directly lead to improved patient safety outcomes and reduced errors. While most demographic factors do not affect this performance, suggesting that strong institutional standards ensure consistency, significant differences in decision-making and care quality do emerge when analyzed by sex. Overall, the findings confirm that robust nursing leadership, strict adherence to protocols, and continuous professional development are essential for maintaining high-quality, safe patient care.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

The findings may help hospital administrators, nurse managers, and healthcare teams strengthen leadership, improve patient safety, and promote quality nursing care. Hospitals are encouraged to provide ongoing training and quality improvement programs, while future researchers may explore other factors affecting patient safety in different healthcare settings.

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AI DECLARATION STATEMENT

AI-supported tools helped with grammar and structure in creating this article. No AI tools were used to collect, analyze, or interpret data; all authors are credited for their academic contributions.

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