

Forensic nursing in urgency and emergency: a new approach perspective*Enfermería forense en urgencias y emergencias: una nueva perspectiva de abordaje**Enfermagem forense em urgência e emergência: uma nova perspectiva de abordagem***Abstract**

The aim of this article is to describe the performance of the forensic nurse in the Urgency and Emergency service. About the production took place from 2015 to 2021. For that, a narrative research of the literature was carried out, with qualitative approaches, where a synthesis of each production was developed, using the comparisons of the main results, the data analysis occurred in the form descriptive, allowing the evaluation of the articles according to the response and the selected studies were grouped in an analytical framework. Three categories were elaborated: Contextualizing Forensic Nursing, The Nurse in the Urgency and Emergency service and The performance of the forensic nurse in urgency and emergency. It was evidenced that the forensic nurse acts in the evaluations and collection of traces, in case of violence suffered by the patients outside/inside the hospital context and that he is the professional who first receives the victims who arrive at the emergency/urgency services, where he represents a important professional in a multidisciplinary team in the criminal investigation, where they are faced with opportunities to apply principles of Forensic Sciences, linked to their unique nursing skills. It is concluded that forensic nurses have the potential to act in urgent and emergency situations, as they have specific skills, in addition to working in the prevention and promotion of future cases.

Descriptors: Forensic Nursing; Urgency; Emergency; Assistance; Nursing Care.

Resumen

El objetivo de este artículo es describir el desempeño de la enfermera forense en el servicio de Urgencias y Emergencias. Sobre la producción transcurrió de 2015 a 2021. Para ello, se realizó una investigación narrativa de la literatura, con enfoques cualitativos, donde se desarrolló una síntesis de cada producción, utilizando las comparaciones de los principales resultados, el análisis de datos ocurrió en el forma descriptiva, que permitió la evaluación de los artículos según la respuesta y los estudios seleccionados fueron agrupados en un marco analítico. Se elaboraron tres categorías: Contextualizando la Enfermería Forense, El Enfermero en el servicio de Urgencias y Emergencias y La actuación del enfermero forense en urgencias y emergencias. Se evidenció que el enfermero forense actúa en las evaluaciones y recolección de huellas, en caso de violencia sufrida por los pacientes fuera/dentro del contexto hospitalario y que es el profesional que primero recibe a las víctimas que llegan a los servicios de emergencia/urgencia, donde representa a un importante profesional en un equipo multidisciplinario en la investigación criminal, donde se encuentran ante oportunidades de aplicar principios de las Ciencias Forenses, ligados a sus singulares habilidades de enfermería. Se concluye que las enfermeras forenses tienen potencial para actuar en situaciones de urgencia y emergencia, ya que cuentan con habilidades específicas, además de trabajar en la prevención y promoción de futuros casos.

Descriptoros: Enfermería Forense; Urgencia; Emergencia; Asistencia; Cuidado de Enfermería.

Resumo

O objetivo deste artigo é descrever a atuação do enfermeiro forense no serviço de Urgência e Emergência. Cerca da produção ocorreu do período de 2015 a 2021. Para tanto, foi feita uma pesquisa narrativa da literatura, com abordagens qualitativas, onde desenvolveu-se uma síntese de cada produção, utilizando as comparações dos principais resultados, a análise dos dados ocorreu na forma descritiva, possibilitando a avaliação dos artigos conforme resposta e os estudos selecionados foram agrupados em um quadro analítico. Foram elaboradas três categorias: Contextualizando a Enfermagem Forense, O Enfermeiro no serviço de Urgência e Emergência e A atuação do enfermeiro forense na urgência e emergência. Foi evidenciado que o enfermeiro forense atua nas avaliações e coletas de vestígios, em caso de violências sofridas pelos pacientes fora/dentro do contexto hospitalar e que ele é o profissional que primeiro recebe as vítimas que chegam aos serviços de emergência/urgência, onde representa um profissional importante numa equipe multidisciplinar no inquérito criminoso, onde se deparam com oportunidades para aplicar princípios das Ciências Forenses, ligados a suas habilidades únicas de enfermagem. Conclui-se que os enfermeiros forenses têm um potencial para atuar em urgência e emergência, por apresentar habilidades específicas, além de trabalhar na prevenção e promoção de futuros casos.

Descriptoros: Enfermagem Forense; Urgência; Emergência; Assistência; Cuidados de Enfermagem.

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Introduction

Urgency and emergency services make up one of the many scenarios that contain different situations related to aggression and violence. Nurses, as active elements of a multidisciplinary health team, are often the first professionals that victims of violence encounter. For this reason, they must be prepared with scientific technical knowledge to provide nursing care in order to guarantee, not only the clinical principles of care, as well as the preservation of evidence. Bearing in mind that the large percentage of victims who are afflicted by aggression seek the SUS as the first option for assistance, the urgent and emergency services, depending on the case, will be the place of first contact with the nursing professional for their care¹.

Forensic Nursing is characterized as the use of Nursing Science in the various forensic aspects related to health care; acting in different places where there are people who have suffered some type of violence, with a detailed and critical view in the search for the identification of suspected cases of violence, guaranteeing comprehensive care to those assisted. In the clinical performance of nurses in the face of physical violence, aspects of forensic sciences arise, such as the function of collecting and preserving the present traces of victims and aggressors for the investigation of what happened, helping from the care of the individual's health to the resolution of legal issues^{1,2}.

The forensic nurse is responsible for providing specialized assistance to victims of the most varied types of violence and aggressors, for which he must be prepared to deal with the physical, psychological and social traumas of each case. In addition, the nurse must master knowledge about legal systems, collect evidence and give testimony in court. They are professional bridge between Legislation and Health Sciences³.

Having as object of study the forensic nurse and as objective to describe the performance of the forensic nurse in the urgency/emergency service.

Methodology

The present study is a narrative review of the literature, descriptive and exploratory, with a qualitative approach. Data were collected in the period from 2015 to 2021, through the reading of scientific articles that will cover the literature focused on the area of nursing on nursing in Ferense in urgency and emergency.

Qualitative research is used to acquire subjective

data, that is, it is concerned with apprehending a reality that cannot be quantified, making it unnecessary to use precise measuring instruments. And, it is the most commonly used expression to represent the treatment of data from a qualitative research. This method of analysis is not a technical procedure, but a historical aspect of theoretical and practical research in the field of social investigations⁴.

Narrative review studies are broad publications, with the aim of describing and discussing the development of a given subject, from a theoretical and contextual point of view. Narrative reviews consist of analyzes of literature published in books, articles from printed or electronic magazines with the author's personal interpretation and critical analysis⁵.

The bibliographic search was carried out in the electronic database of Google Scholar, documents from the Regional Nursing Council (COREN), Manuals from the Brazilian Ministry of Health, Scientific Electronic Library Online (ScieELO), Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Sciences in Health (LILACS), Virtual Health Library (VHL) and Portal of Journals of Nursing. The following descriptors were used to select articles: "Forensic nursing", "Urgency" and "Emergency". Inclusion criteria were used: research articles, in full, available in Portuguese, English, Spanish or Chinese, which addressed the researched theme and were available online and free.

A synthesis of each production was developed, using the comparisons of the main results that respond to the research, emphasizing the differences and similarities, so the analysis of the data will be in the descriptive form, allowing the evaluation of the articles as a response to the research objectives and analyzed in the body of the results text of the articles found. The selected studies will be grouped in an analytical framework.

Results and Discussion

In the analysis and discussion of the results of the narrative review of the literature, 27 articles were identified using the defined search criteria, where the references were read in full and of these 20 studies were excluded, as they addressed different themes with the inclusion of the process with an organization method of the results. Thus, seven were included in this review. From the analysis, three categories emerged: Contextualizing Forensic Nursing, The Nurse in the Urgency and Emergency service and The performance of the forensic nurse in urgency and emergency.

Chart 1. Variables used for analysis of localized publications. Cabo Frio, RJ, Brazil, 2021

Title	Journal	Year	Authors	Objective	Descriptors	Language
Criação da Liga de Enfermagem Forense: um relato de experiência	Caderno de Graduação - Ciências Biológicas e da Saúde Sergipe/BR	2017	Crislene de Araújo Cruz Silva; Erica Santos Silva; Juliana Prado Ribeiro Soares; Fernanda Kelly Fraga Oliveira; Naiane Regina Oliveira Goes Reis.	Show the relevance that the league has in the face of the dissemination of information that has a great social and professional impact.	Forensic nursing, violence, nurses.	PT
Impacto da formação em ciências forenses	Repositório Científico do Instituto Politécnico de Viseu/PT	2016	Mauro Alexandre de Almeida Coelho, Maria Madalena Jesus Cunha Nunes.	Evaluate the impact of training on the level of knowledge about forensic practices of	Knowledge in forensic practices,	PT



				participants in a Brief Course on Forensic Sciences.	forensic sciences.	
Preservação dos vestígios forenses: conhecimentos e práticas dos enfermeiros do serviço de urgência e/ou emergência	Repositório Científico da Universidade de Coimbra/PT	2016	Cristiana Isabel de Almeida Gomes.	Knowing the perception of knowledge and the executability of the procedures related to the preservation of forensic traces of the Nurses of the Emergency Service and/or Emergency.	Knowledge, practices, forensic traces, nurses, emergencies.	PT
Violência: abordagem, atuação e educação em enfermagem	Caderno de Graduação - Ciências Biológicas e da Saúde Sergipe/BR	2017	Diana Cavalcante Martins.	Evaluate how the topic of violence is included in higher education curricula in nursing.	Nursing, graduation, violence.	PT
Eficácia de uma intervenção estruturada de enfermagem forense realizada a estudantes de enfermagem	Repositório Institucional de Informação Científica do Instituto Politécnico de Leiria/PT	2016	Gonçalo Pedro de Oliveira Ribeiro, Maria dos Anjos Coelho Rodrigues Dixe.	Evaluate the effectiveness of a structured forensic nursing intervention performed with nursing students in improving knowledge about forensic practices and nursing practices to be performed in forensic situations.	Forensic sciences, knowledge, effectiveness, forensic nursing, nursing students.	PT
ABEFORENSE	www.abeforense.org.br	2015	Zenaide Cavalcanti de Madeiros.	Regulate the technical skills of forensic nursing.	-	PT
Atuação e competência do enfermeiro forense na preservação de vestígios no serviço de urgência e emergência	Revista da Escola de Enfermagem Anna Nery Rio de Janeiro/BR	2017	Michelle Ribeiro Santos, Grace Adrielle Nunes Lucas, Maria Renata Cardoso Ferro.	Highlight the performance and skills of the forensic nurse with a focus on preserving traces in urgent and emergency services.	Forensic nursing, role of the nursing professional, violence, patient care.	PT

Contextualizing forensic nursing

Forensic nursing can be defined as the application of Nursing Science to the forensic aspects of health care, working in any place where there are people in situations of violence and entailing an essence focused on the contribution of comprehensive care, developing a critical and thorough to detect cases⁶.

It reconciles general concepts of nursing with the principles of traditional forensic sciences, thus integrating forensic science in the provision of nursing care, promoting direct care for victims and offenders, applying the law to the way of caring for the person and representing a positive evolution on behalf of victims, providing physical, emotional and social care⁷.

The forensic nurse acts in the evaluations and collection of traces, in case of violence suffered by patients outside/inside the hospital context, helping to detect the cause of death, thus contributing to epidemiology and health surveillance, in addition to working in the community, promoting education against violence among the population, providing better quality of life.

The nurse in the urgency and/or emergency service

It is stated that nurses who work in urgent and/or emergency services must provide assistance to patients in order to maintain life and promote health. In the context of

violence, aspects of the forensic sciences emerge from the role of the nurse, in which the function of collecting or preserving the traces present in the victim/aggressor or in the place for investigation of the fact is highlighted, from health care to the legal issues^{1,8}.

However, the services of these units often do not have the ideal conditions for the preservation and collection of forensic traces, requiring the contribution of nurses and other health professionals with dexterity, agility, skill, so as not to cause destruction or degradation of the evidence⁹.

The nurse is the professional who first receives the victims of violence when they arrive at the emergency/urgency services; since they are at the forefront of patient care, establishing a bond with them, in addition to having resources such as anamnesis and physical examination, which favors obtaining evidence in suspected cases. Regarding the multidisciplinary relationship, it is observed that they have the ability, the interaction with other professionals, in addition to the ability to assist the victim and/or the offender with a humanized look, which is characteristic of nursing, providing comprehensive assistance³.

Performance of the forensic nurse in urgency and/or emergency

The domains of competence of the forensic nurse



indicated by ABEFORENSE are: abuse and trauma, sexual abuse, physical violence, investigation of death, forensic psychiatric nursing, preservation of traces, expert testimony, consulting, mass disasters and prison nursing¹⁰.

Study¹¹ points out that the specialization in forensic nursing arises from the need, among other things, to enable the recognition of possible situations of violence through the assistance that is given to the patient, since many individuals who resort to the health service arrive with clinical complaints that can result from situations of violence.

The forensic nurse is the professional who is able to act directly in this context, as they are qualified to deal with the most diverse cases of violence and its consequences, since their specialization combines nursing sciences, specific care and forensic sciences, with theoretical-scientific knowledge to serve a differentiated clientele¹⁰.

The professional nurse in the forensic field can apply a unique combination of nursing science, forensic science, and public health to care for patients, families, and communities¹².

Continuous training in medico-legal and/or forensic sciences included in the provision of nursing care is a good strategy to end the cycle of violence and crime in a certain community, thus meaning that the nurse represents an important professional in a team multidisciplinary approach in the criminal investigation, where during their clinical practice all nurses are faced with opportunities to apply principles of forensic sciences linked to their unique nursing skills, for this, nurses in urgent and/or emergency services must invest in training in this area to improve the quality of

Conclusion

It is known that violence is a problem that is currently inserted and forensic nurses have the potential to help in this context, as they have specific skills, in addition to working in the present and in the prevention and promotion of future cases.

Different authors report that the high rates of violence led to the emergence of forensic nursing, associating the importance of its insertion in emergency services and units, justifying that it is the gateway to these types of care, demonstrating that this professional is the more able to act in this context, since this specialization enables him not to leave any trace unnoticed or ignored.

Therefore, the specialty in Forensic Nursing is of paramount importance for the population, so that a forensic nurse can help in the preservation of material, contribute to justice in the fight against the forces of human destruction, working to prevent new cases, providing greater quality of life for society.

In view of the above, we wish to ratify that forensic nursing is an essential specialty to be instituted and implemented in urgent/emergency services in Brazil, since it directs its care to the victims, family members and the community, aiming at the preservation of the victim through the use of their technical and scientific skills, becoming an irreplaceable presence in health services, where it is common to see situations of forensic value.

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