

## A trial of nursing training aiming at improving ethical awareness

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Received 27 February 2014; received in received from 14 March 2014; accepted 20 March 2014

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### Abstract

We conducted a self-assessment investigation of holding of the training depending on the years of experience of the nurse and the ethical act. The subjects in the survey were 190 people from the nursing staff of Tokushima National Hospital. We made "a self-assessment list" by extracting nine items from the ethical general plan for nursing persons of the Japan Nursing Association. The ratio of the practice of the ethical nursing action was the first 71.41%, the second 74.86%, the third 75.96%, the fourth 76.04%. The ratio increased with the course. All 1-3 items increased when they looked according to an item. Self-consciousness develops with growth, and people come to evaluate behavior and character by themselves. Furthermore, self-assessment is associated with development of the ability to maintain personal relationships.

**Keywords:** self-assessment, ethical act, nursing action, personal relationships

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### Introduction

In recent years medical care of patients has developed and become more specialized. Moreover, high ethical awareness is also demanded from medical personnel. The Japan Nursing Association set out an ethical general plan for nursing personnel in 2003. The range of responsibility that nurses took as specialists was shown in the society. In this situation, updating the outlook on ethics of nurses is extremely important. A nursing ethics promotion team was formed by the second nurse supervisor in Tokushima National Hospital aiming at updating and improving the ethical sensitivity of the nursing staff in 2009. However, a problem was that improvement of ethical consciousness after the training of the nursing staff did not continue. We conducted a self-assessment investigation of holding of the training depending on the years of

experience of the nurse and the ethical act to improve it.

### Subjects and methods

The investigation period was from June, 2013 to October. The subjects of the survey were 190 people from the nursing staff of Tokushima National Hospital. In June, 2013, the lecture training by the authorization nursing manager (outside lecturer) was conducted. In October, 2013, set training of an example examination was conducted by the ethics promotion team. We made "a self-assessment list" by extracting nine items from the ethical general plan for nursing persons of the Japan Nursing Association (Table 1). There were three answer option; "performed", "sometimes done" and "not performed" The investigation was conducted four times from July, 2012 to October, 2013 in total. Answer written to the question paper,

single was simply analyzed. Then the changes in training were compared. The study obtained approval from the Ethical Review Board of Tokushima National Hospital.

## Results

The collect rate of the self-assessment investigation was the first 93.8% (n =152), the second 89.7% (n=148), the third 90.0% (n=171), the fourth 88.3% (n=159). The courses of self-assessment nine items are as follows. The ratio of the practice of the ethical nursing action was the first 71.41%, the second 74.86%, the third 75.96%, the fourth 76.04%. The ratio increased with the course. All 1-3 items increased when they looked according to an item. For item 2 "Do you do voice credit to the patients at care?", 81-92% of subjects answered with 'yes'. For item 3 "Do you talk about other patients in a sickroom?" half or less subjects answered with 'yes'. For the items 5 and 6 "response to nurse call", more than 70% of subjects answered 'yes'. However, the ratio slightly decreased to the fourth. For item 7, "Do you talk in language in deference to the patients?" Half or more subjects answered with 'yes'. The ratio increased with the course.

## Discussion

Today's healthcare environment is demanding for nurses at a time when there is a critical shortage of staff to meet the multifaceted needs of patients. Ethical issues can occur in any healthcare situation where profound moral questions of "rightness" or "wrongness" underlie professional decision-making and the beneficent care of patients [1]. Many of the studies that focus on ethical problems in nursing practice produce data unique to a particular specialty area. Such study topics include ethical issues in restraint use in mental health [2]; providing care to high risk neonates [3-6]; initiating, withholding, and withdrawing treatment and advance directives in acute and long-term care [7,8]. Studies have shown that

nurses, more often than their physician colleagues, feel that end-of-life ethical issues are not thoroughly discussed within the care team or with families and significant others [9].

We conducted autocriticism of ethical awareness in nursing service. There is little old acquaintance in the ethic awareness for a nurse while the nursing service performs. In this study, four times of 3 months conducted the same question. The ratio increased six of nine items every time. This suggests that ethical awareness regarding respect for things and taking responsibility for one's work gradually became strong. The repetition of the self-assessment was an opportunity to look back on one's everyday nursing actions and to stimulate ethical sensitivity. For the question "Is training on nursing ethics necessary in the future?", 90% of nurses answered 'yes'. For the ethical behavior of the nursing staff, enforcement of a planification-like ethical educational program is necessary. Self-consciousness develops with growth, and people come to evaluate behavior and character by themselves. Furthermore, self-assessment is associated with development of the ability to maintain personal relationships.

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**Table 1** Self-assessment question contents

Item	Question
1	Do you say your full name to the patients at the beginning of duties?
2	Do you obtain patient compliance at the time of nursing care?
3	Do you talk about other patients in a sickroom?
4	Do you close the curtain at time when assisting with excretion?
5	Do you respond to nurse calls quickly?
6	When a nurse call cannot be answered promptly, do you make an excuse?
7	Do you talk with respect to the patients?
8	Do you nurse for the patients in a fair manner?
9	Do you always listen to the suit of the patients?