**Concepts for Clinical Judgment**

Name:

Course:

Institution:

Professor:

Date:

**What do you feel are the greatest influences on clinical judgment? Is it experience, knowledge, or a combination of those things?**

It is imperative for nurses to use sound clinical judgment within healthcare settings. In her article, Tanner (2006) reviews clinical judgment in nursing and influences of clinical judgment based on the nurses' background. In this regard, I believe that the greatest influences on clinical judgment are knowledge and experience. When nurses make diagnoses for their patients to formulate treatment plans, they rely on the knowledge gained from their education and their previous experiences with patients suffering from similar conditions. Moreover, nurses formulate patient treatments based on their knowledge of patient's responsiveness to specific drug regimens.

Nurses gain knowledge of the various diseases and treatments for their patients from working with them, watching their behaviors, and listening to their engagement with the diseases. Embracing such approaches helps nurses understand the patient’s typical responses specific interventions. Therefore, nurses knowing their patients are better able to formulate individualized interventions. Besides, nurses' experience interacting with various disease management determines their recognition or response to the patients' disease patterns. On the contrary, nurses who do not have experience interacting with various diseases would rely on the knowledge gained from textbooks to assess patient situations and resolve them using the best course of action. Furthermore, nurses often act under the guidance of more experienced nurses. Older nurses within healthcare settings have the necessary expertise needed to enhance effective clinical judgment.

Nurses attend to sick patients by choosing the best drug regimens based on their knowledge of the drug's effects on the body. This knowledge is integrated with past experiences and knowledge of preexisting conditions whose interaction may interfere with the patient's administration of other medications. Moreover, nurses implement the best course of action from various methods depending on what they consider to be optimal for the patient's recovery. Therefore, a nurse's knowledge and experience operate interchangeably when making effective clinical judgments.

**In your opinion, what part does intuition play in clinical judgment? How do you think you'll be able to develop nursing intuition?**

Nurses often rely on inner perceptions to make clinical decisions without relying on logical rules. This helps them anticipate what is likely to happen and make the necessary plans for the patients whole, averting crises resulting from the patients' conditions. Tanner (2006) explains that nurses use intuition to detect a patient’s subtle changes and understand their responses to specific disease patterns by recognizing their processes. Besides, intuition helps nurses solve patient problems even when they do not have sufficient information. In such cases, nurses can make the best decisions for patient care by integrating the best actions on a case-by-case basis. Intuition is integral to comprehensive patient care as it helps nurses link knowledge gained from past experiences with seemingly irrelevant patient information to determine the patient's improvement or deterioration. Intuition helps nurses save patient lives in the case where monitors fail to demonstrate the patient's illnesses' severity.

Nurses rely on intuition for decision-making in patient care. In other instances, nurses may opt to use hypothetical and deductive reasoning to decide the best course of action for treating their patients. Still, nurses rely on intuition in addition to the presented facts to make such decisions. In addition to intuition, nurses at times integrate narrative thinking to understand specific cases before making their conclusions. This can be done by interpreting a patient's motive behind their actions and their concern for treatment. In connection to the previous question, nurses integrate their knowledge, experience, and intuition to apprehend various clinical situations and make the best decisions. However, nurses without specific experience are unable to recognize various patterns in clinical cases. Therefore, experienced nurses, especially those who have encountered multiple illnesses, repeatedly rely on intuition to effectively make decisions in patient care.

**How I Will Develop my Nursing Intuition**

According to Tanner (2006), intuition helps nurses perceive truth regarding clinical situations without using the analytical process. Nurses can develop intuition as they gain experience in the nursing field. In this light, experienced nurses find it easy to address various clinical problems without breaking them down into constituent parts. Instead, they act intuitively, drawing from their experiences. On the contrary, a novice will approach the same situation step-by-step, applying their knowledge to get the required solutions. Nurses can sense whenever their patients need help and act within their expertise to address the situations appropriately (Chilcote, 2017).

I will develop my nursing intuition by reflecting on my actions and learning from them. This reflection will be done during the interventions and post-hoc to help me learn from my experiences. I will continue to develop my knowledge while drawing on my experiences for future clinical situations. Regularly reflecting on patients’ responses to their interventions will help me act intuitively in future situations. Essentially, experiential learning will help me develop intuition by working with more experienced nurses to gain more case studies and enriched feedback. Moreover, I will improve my intuition through trial and error and combine my knowledge, skills, and expertise.

References

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