

Abstract

Introduction: Palliative care (P.C) is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification, perfect assessment, treatment of pain and other physical, psychosocial and spiritual problems.

In previous years palliative care was known as the care of the patient who is close to death but now, the capacity of palliative care has expanded to include patients who may live for many years with chronic disease.

Objective: The study aimed to assess practice attitude and Barriers about palliative care among nurses working in Pediatric wards at 12 private hospitals in the west bank, Palestine.

Methods: Descriptive, cross sectional quantitative study design and the stratified sampling procedure were used for conducting the study. Two research hypotheses were addressed by using independent samples t-test, and one way ANOVA statistical analysis. A Sample of 236 nurses working in the pediatric ward from 12 private hospitals was chosen for this study. Data were collected by using questionnaire with demographic data and palliative cares Quiz for Nurses (PCQN) and from melt Attitudes toward Care of the Dying Scale (FATCOD). Pilot study was conducted among 20 nurses.

Result: A statistically significant difference existed between the Palliative Care Quiz for Nurses scores based on gender ($p=0.030$) and level of education ($p=0.017$) for the area of relief of pain and other Symptoms solely. Likewise, results of this study revealed that significant differences existed between the nurses' attitude survey scores according to the number of admissions in all subscale areas including: Holistic Care

of the Child ($p < 0.001$), Support of the Family Unit ($p = 0.002$), Involvement of Child and Family in communication...etc. ($p < 0.001$), Continuity of Care ($p = 0.001$).

Findings did not reveal any significant relationship with the identified demographic variables of employment status, age-group, education, nurses' position and previous experience in the areas of Holistic Care of the Child, Support of the Family Unit, Involvement of Child and Family in communication ... etc., Continuity of Care, and Grief and Bereavement Support.

Conclusion: The nurses had poor knowledge, but their attitude towards PC was positivity and favorable. This study ultimately lends support for the inclusion of Palliative Care in nursing education. The responsibility of undergraduate nursing faculty is to ascertain that their curriculum is reflective of current practice needs. Being knowledgeable about Palliative Care can help nurses overcome many of the documented barriers to the management of chronicity in patients toward the end-of-life. Recommendations are that integration of the national health policy related to PC in the national curriculum of nurse education and provide training related to PC for the nurses.