

**Deanship of Graduate Studies
Al-Quds University**



**Assessment of Nurses' Knowledge and Practices
Regarding Care Provided for Preterm Neonates in
Governmental Hospitals: a Nurse's perspective**

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Governmental Hospitals: a Nurse's perspective**

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Thesis Approval

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Jerusalem-Palestine

1440/2018

Dedication

I dedicate this project to God Almighty my creator, my strong pillar, my source of inspiration, wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

To my amazing mother and father whom without, I would not be the person that I am today. Thank you for being amazing role models, for always encouraging my dreams, and for all of the sacrifices you made in order for me to live the life I have.

To My beautiful grandmother Halima.

To my beloved wife Hana'a. I appreciate the sacrifices you have made in helping me realize my dream.

To my brothers and sisters Nisreen, Mohammed, Doa'a, Abrar, Waleed, Obada, promising Dr. Eshraq and Fattom, thank you for being my cheerleaders and for showing patience and tolerance with my busy schedule.

To the souls of my ancestors, martyrs brothers

To my homeland Palestine

To whom born too soon, you inspire me every day to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

All of them I dedicate this work.

Signed:

Bra'a K. M. Al habbash

Date: / /

Declaration

I certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of Master is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this thesis (or any of its parts) has not been submitted for higher degree to any other university or institution.

Signed:

Baraa k. M. Alhabbash

Date.../.../....

Acknowledgement

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Abstract

Preterm neonates may be exposed to a number of life threatening problems that are associated with increased morbidity and mortality, due to failure of adjustment to extra uterine environment. Therefore, the neonatal intensive care unit should be staffed with highly qualified nurses, and advanced equipment to provide effective care with high quality performance and decrease number of neonatal deaths. The study aimed to assess nurse's knowledge and practices regarding to care of preterm neonates in governmental hospitals from nurse's perspective. The study design was quantitative, descriptive cross sectional, the study was conducted at neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) affiliated to the governmental hospitals " Al Shifa' Complex - Al Nassr Pediatric Hospital - European Gaza Hospital ". The sample consisted of all available nurses working in NICUs at the previously mentioned hospitals "a census sample". The total number of nurses was 101. The researcher used a self-administered questionnaire to collect data from study participants. The study participants' response rate were (100%). The findings of this study revealed that the mean percentages were (75.39%) for knowledge and (76.07%) for practice which were categorized as moderate level. There was significant weak correlation between nurse's knowledge and practices. There was significant differences in the nurses' knowledge and practices between their different places of work, in favor to those who are working in Al Nassr Pediatric Hospital. There was significant differences in the participants' knowledge between who received general courses in NICU and who didn't receive ($P < 0.05$). There was no statistical differences in knowledge and practices related to other factors: age, gender, marital status, education level, job title, and years of work in NICU, qualification and special training courses regarding preterm during work in NICU ($P\text{-value} > 0.05$). This study revealed that there was moderate nurses' knowledge and practices toward preterm care. The researcher recommended that: Nurses should be enrolled in special training program before starting work in NICU. Orientation period to work in NICUs is crucial. A specialized continuing education program to updating nurses knowledge and practices.

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List of Abbreviations

AAP	American Academy of Pediatrics
ANOVA	One way Analysis of Variance
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CPAP	Continuous positive airway pressure
FRC	Function Residual Capacity
G6PD	Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase
GRs	Gastric Residuals
GNN	Gaza Neonatal Network
GS	Gaza Strip
HMD	Hyaline Membrane Disease
IgG	Immunoglobulin G
Km	Kilometer
KMC	Kangaroo Mother Care
L/S	Lecithin/Sphingomyelin
MoH	Ministry of Health
NEC	Necrotizing Enterocolitis
NG	Naso Gastric
NICU	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
OG	Oro Gastric
OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territory
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PHCA	Palestinian Health Information Center.
RDS	Respiratory Distress Syndrome
ROP	Retinopathy of Prematurity
SGA	Small for Gestational Age
SIDS	Sudden infant death syndrome
SPSS	Statistical Package of Social Science
TIOP	Toward Improving the Outcome of Pregnancy
WHO	World Health Organization

Chapter one: Introduction

1.1 Research Background

According to world health organization (WHO), preterm neonate is one born alive before 37 completed weeks of gestation (WHO, 2017). Preterm neonates considered a high-risk group due to their physiological immaturity and instability, which required prolonged intensive care for their survival. Major health problems stem from immaturity of body systems and the degree of this immaturity is related to gestational age (Sarapat et al., 2017). According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), prematurity is the leading cause of neonatal mortality as well as significant factor in mortality among children who are under five years. An estimated 15 million babies are born preterm every year, and this number is rising globally. Preterm and low birth weight accounted about 17% of infant deaths (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017). Therefore, the neonatal mortality rate is widely considered as a significant population health indicator (Blencowe et al., 2016).

Preterm neonates are at great risk for numerous problems and require special care since they remain in the uterus for short period. As the result, body systems of preterm neonates may be immature and affect the proper transition from intrauterine to the extra uterine environment and placing them at risk for complications and death (Ricci et al, 2017). Preterm neonates usually need a long period of hospitalization due to a breathing problem, feeding difficulties, temperature instabilities (hypothermia), jaundice and delayed brain development, also a preterm neonate who survives is at risk for serious lifelong health problem including cerebral palsy, blindness, hearing loss, learning disabilities, and other chronic conditions (WHO, 2017).

According to American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the availability of neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) improve outcomes of high-risk neonates including those born preterm (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2012). These units are specialized care units require competent staff. Nurses are one of the most important health workers in NICU, and they must be proficient in providing