

The cooperation between physicians and nurses (summary)

The medical profession as well as the nursing profession developed the past years. By that, the relation between these professions has changed. This study focuses on the cooperation between nurses and physicians in case of affording care to patients and the way this cooperation influences this affording of care.

The study consists of two parts. In the first part, the literature study, different sources have been consulted. After that, four respondents (two physicians and two nurses) are interviewed to validate the data from the first study in practice. These respondents are all working at an intensive care unit for children in an academic hospital. The results of the study only affect the healing art of children.

The relation physician – nurse has changed the last years. Nurses are no longer seen as the “slave of a doctor”, but have become self-employed, acting employees. The regard of the physicians has decreased. Through the increasing pressure on the quality of healthcare from different sides, physicians and nurses must do better and better. A good cooperation is important by that, top-down management of the physician is gone.

Physicians and nurses both have their own tasks in the treatment of a patient. Physicians do the medical treatment and nurses the caring and nursing acts around the medical treatment. Nurses take over more and more operations from the physicians. Both employees are responsible for their own actions.

Besides that, physicians and nurses take care of the safety of a patient's treatment. The risk for injuries for the patients must be the less as possible. Laws as the Wet BIG, the WGBO and the KZi outline the wide standards which the given care must meet. The nurses and the physicians will have to fill in these norms together. Unfortunately, in practice the wide norms do not result in clear arrangements over tasks as informing the patient and writing the patient files. This results in lots of (avoidable) errors. Wrong communication is an important cause of these errors.

The cooperation between physicians and nurses has a huge impact on the quality of healthcare. The progress of the treatment of a patient is depending on the quality of the cooperation between these two professions. It is their job to take care of the safety of the patients during the stay at the hospital and the treatment as well as to minimize the amount of errors. For this good and clear arrangements, concerning the task division, in the cooperation are necessary. The responsibility that the law gives to the physicians and nurses within filling in the norms, are not taken by them.