

Eureka Journal of Health Sciences & Medical Innovation (EJHSMI)

ISSN 2760-4942 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 3, March 2026



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THE ROLE OF THE HEAD NURSE IN ORGANIZING THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY AND INTENSIVE CARE

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Abstract

The Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care is one of the most complex and responsible structural units of a medical institution. The effectiveness of this department largely depends on the proper organization of nursing activities, quality control of medical care, and rational allocation of resources. This article examines the role of the head nurse in organizing the work of the Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care, her main functions, responsibilities, and significance in ensuring patient safety and the efficiency of the treatment process. It is shown that competent management of nursing staff, compliance with sanitary and epidemiological requirements, and control of medical equipment are important factors in improving the quality of intensive care.

Keywords: Anesthesiology, intensive care, head nurse, nursing management, organization of department work, intensive therapy.

Introduction

The modern healthcare system places increasingly high demands on the quality, safety, and efficiency of medical care. This is particularly important in

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departments of anesthesiology and intensive care, where medical assistance is provided to patients with severe and life-threatening conditions. Such patients require continuous monitoring of vital body functions, timely correction of homeostasis disturbances, and the use of advanced treatment technologies, including mechanical ventilation, infusion and transfusion therapy, hemodynamic monitoring, and other modern methods of intensive care.

The work of anesthesiology and intensive care departments is characterized by high intensity, complexity of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, and the need for round-the-clock monitoring of patients. In this regard, the effective organization of the work of the entire medical staff is essential, especially the nursing staff, who provide direct patient care and perform most therapeutic procedures.

Under such conditions, the effective organization of nursing activities becomes particularly important. The head nurse is a key figure in the management system of the department's nursing staff. She coordinates the work of nurses and junior medical personnel, ensures compliance with medical care standards, supervises the implementation of physicians' prescriptions, and monitors adherence to sanitary and epidemiological regulations.

In addition, the head nurse performs important organizational and managerial functions aimed at improving the efficiency of the department's work. These include planning and distributing responsibilities among staff members, preparing duty schedules, supervising the maintenance of medical documentation, and ensuring the department is adequately supplied with medications, consumables, and medical equipment.

Another important task of the head nurse is to ensure the safety of both patients and medical personnel. This includes monitoring compliance with aseptic and antiseptic rules, implementing measures for the prevention of hospital-acquired infections, supervising the proper use of medical equipment, and ensuring adherence to safety regulations during medical procedures.

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Rational planning of nursing staff activities, effective management of medical resources, control over the use of medical equipment and medications, as well as the creation of safe conditions for patients and staff are among the most important areas of the head nurse's work. The efficiency of the anesthesiology and intensive care department and the quality of medical care provided largely depend on her professional competence, organizational skills, and level of responsibility.

Literature Review

Modern studies in the field of healthcare organization indicate that the effectiveness of anesthesiology and intensive care departments depends not only on the level of technical equipment and the qualifications of physicians, but also on the proper organization of nursing activities. Scientific literature emphasizes that nurses represent an essential component of the intensive care system, providing continuous monitoring of patients' conditions, carrying out medical prescriptions, and maintaining vital body functions.

According to a number of researchers, the head nurse performs not only clinical but also managerial functions. She organizes the work of the nursing staff, supervises compliance with nursing care standards, participates in ensuring the department is provided with medical resources, and monitors the quality of medical care delivery. Many authors note that effective nursing management contributes to improving the quality of patient treatment, reducing the frequency of complications, and enhancing clinical outcomes in intensive care.

Special attention in scientific research is also given to issues related to patient safety in intensive care units. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a significant proportion of medical errors are associated with deficiencies in the organization of nursing care, insufficient control over the implementation of medical procedures, and failure to comply with sanitary and epidemiological requirements. In this regard, the role of the head nurse as a coordinator of nursing activities becomes particularly important.

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The literature also emphasizes the importance of infection control in anesthesiology and intensive care departments. A high concentration of critically ill patients, the frequent use of invasive procedures, and the application of complex medical equipment increase the risk of hospital-acquired infections. Studies show that systematic monitoring of compliance with aseptic and antiseptic standards, regular supervision of sanitary conditions, and continuous training of medical staff significantly reduce the risk of infectious complications. Many authors also highlight that one of the key responsibilities of the head nurse is the rational management of the department's material resources. Control over the use of medications, medical devices, and consumables ensures the uninterrupted functioning of the department and improves the economic efficiency of medical care.

Thus, the analysis of scientific literature demonstrates that the activities of the head nurse play a significant role in the effective organization of anesthesiology and intensive care departments. Proper management of nursing staff, quality control of medical care, and ensuring sanitary and epidemiological safety are important factors in improving the effectiveness of intensive therapy and patient treatment outcomes.

Research Methodology

The methodological basis of this study was formed by modern scientific approaches to the organization of nursing activities and the management of medical personnel within the healthcare system. In the course of the research, a combination of theoretical and empirical methods was applied, enabling a comprehensive study of the role of the head nurse in organizing the work of the Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care.

During the study, methods of analysis and synthesis of scientific literature related to nursing management, the organization of intensive care, and quality assurance in medical care were used. The analysis of scientific publications made it possible

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to identify the main areas of activity of the head nurse, her functions, and her importance within the organizational system of anesthesiology and intensive care departments.

To examine the practical aspects of the head nurse's activities, methods of observation and comparative analysis of nursing work organization in the Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care were applied. Within the framework of the study, particular attention was given to the distribution of responsibilities among nursing staff, the organization of the workflow, the supervision of the implementation of physicians' orders, and compliance with sanitary and epidemiological regulations.

In addition, an analytical method was used to evaluate the effectiveness of the managerial activities of the head nurse in coordinating the work of medical personnel, ensuring the rational use of medical resources, and maintaining a high level of quality in nursing care.

The collected data were systematized and analyzed using methods of logical generalization and interpretation of results. This approach made it possible to identify the key organizational aspects of the head nurse's activities and determine her role in improving the efficiency of the Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care.

Thus, the applied set of research methods ensured a comprehensive analysis of the organizational activities of the head nurse and allowed for the formulation of scientifically grounded conclusions regarding her significance in the system of intensive care.

Research Results

During the conducted study, the main areas of activity of the head nurse in organizing the work of the Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care were examined, as well as her influence on the effectiveness of nursing staff performance and the quality of medical care.

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The analysis of the organizational structure of the department showed that the head nurse plays a key role in coordinating the activities of both nursing and junior medical staff. She is responsible for distributing duties among staff members, supervising compliance with duty schedules, and ensuring the continuity of nursing care for patients in severe conditions. Through a systematic approach to work organization, it becomes possible to ensure the rational use of human resources and improve the efficiency of the treatment process.

The study also revealed that a significant part of the head nurse's responsibilities is related to quality control of nursing care. She regularly monitors the implementation of physicians' prescriptions, the correctness of medical procedures, and the proper maintenance of medical documentation. Such supervision helps reduce the number of procedural errors and increases patient safety.

The obtained results also demonstrated that one of the important areas of the head nurse's activities is ensuring compliance with sanitary and epidemiological regulations within the department. Regular monitoring of adherence to aseptic and antiseptic rules, implementation of disinfection measures, and supervision of the sterilization of medical instruments contribute to reducing the risk of hospital-acquired infections.

Furthermore, the study revealed that effective organization of the head nurse's work contributes to the rational use of the department's material and technical resources. Monitoring the availability of medications, medical devices, and consumables ensures the uninterrupted functioning of the department and the timely implementation of therapeutic procedures.

Particular importance is also attached to the head nurse's role in improving the professional qualifications of the nursing staff. Conducting training sessions, introducing new nursing care techniques, and monitoring compliance with professional standards contribute to improving the overall quality of medical care.

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Thus, the results of the study indicate that the effective organizational activity of the head nurse is an important factor in improving the quality of medical care in the Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care. Her managerial and coordinating role contributes to optimizing the work of medical staff, improving sanitary and epidemiological safety, and increasing the effectiveness of intensive care.

Discussion

The head nurse is the supervisor of the nursing staff in the department and is responsible for organizing nursing activities. Her work is aimed at ensuring the effective functioning of the department and improving the quality of medical care. The main areas of her responsibilities include:

- organizing the work of nursing and junior medical staff;
- preparing duty schedules and distributing responsibilities;
- supervising compliance with medical standards and treatment protocols;
- ensuring the department is supplied with the necessary medications and consumable materials;
- monitoring the proper operation and use of medical equipment.

The head nurse also participates in the development and implementation of new approaches to the organization of nursing care.

One of the most important functions of the head nurse is the control of the quality of nursing care. She performs:

- supervision of the implementation of physicians' prescriptions;
- monitoring of patients' conditions;
- verification of the correct maintenance of medical documentation;
- control over compliance with nursing care standards.

Regular supervision makes it possible to identify shortcomings in staff performance in a timely manner and take measures to eliminate them.

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Intensive care units are considered areas with a high risk of hospital-acquired infections. Therefore, the head nurse supervises:

- compliance with sanitary and epidemiological regulations;
- the implementation of disinfection measures;
- sterilization of medical instruments;
- the use of personal protective equipment.

Effective infection control contributes significantly to reducing the risk of hospital-acquired infections.

Another important responsibility of the head nurse is the rational use of the department's medical resources. She supervises the availability of medications, keeps records of consumable materials, monitors the technical condition of medical equipment, and ensures the timely maintenance of medical devices. Proper resource management ensures the uninterrupted functioning of the department.

The head nurse also performs the role of a mentor and organizer of professional training for the nursing staff. She conducts briefings, organizes professional development for employees, monitors compliance with professional ethics, and promotes a positive psychological climate within the team. Maintaining a high level of professional competence among staff members contributes to improving the overall quality of medical care.

Conclusions

1. The conducted analysis demonstrated that the head nurse plays a key role in organizing the work of the Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care. Her activities are aimed at coordinating the work of nursing and junior medical staff, ensuring the continuity of nursing care, and improving the efficiency of the treatment process.
2. It has been established that effective management of nursing staff, rational distribution of responsibilities, and supervision of the implementation of

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physicians' prescriptions contribute to improving the quality of medical care and reducing the risk of errors during diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

3. An important area of the head nurse's activity is ensuring the sanitary and epidemiological safety of the department. Monitoring compliance with aseptic and antiseptic rules, implementing preventive measures, and supervising sanitary conditions help reduce the risk of hospital-acquired infections.

4. Rational management of material and technical resources, including medications, medical equipment, and consumable materials, ensures the uninterrupted functioning of the Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care and the timely provision of medical care to patients.

5. Improving the professional training of nursing staff, conducting educational activities, and implementing modern standards of nursing care are essential conditions for improving the quality of intensive therapy.

Recommendations

1. Improve the system of organizing nursing activities in anesthesiology and intensive care departments by introducing modern principles of nursing management.

2. Regularly conduct training and professional development programs for nursing staff in order to enhance professional skills and master modern methods of nursing care for critically ill patients.

3. Strengthen control over compliance with sanitary and epidemiological regulations, including the implementation of regular preventive measures to prevent hospital-acquired infections.

4. Introduce standardized nursing care protocols and algorithms for performing medical procedures to increase patient safety and improve the effectiveness of the treatment process.

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5. Enhance the role of the head nurse in the departmental management system by expanding her functions in the areas of quality control of medical care and rational management of medical resources.

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