

**OP 34**

**Nurses’ knowledge and attitudes regarding patients’ rights in two selected Teaching hospitals in Colombo, Sri Lanka**

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**Background:** Patients’ rights are one of the major components of human rights created for them to receive competent care without discrimination. Nurses as professionals provide care for patients while safeguarding their rights. However, knowledge and attitudes among nurses regarding patients’ rights were found to be deficient in previous studies.

**Objective:** The aim of this study was to describe nurses’ knowledge and attitudes regarding patients’ rights in two selected teaching hospitals.

**Method:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among a convenience sample of 300 nurses from two selected teaching hospitals using a pre-tested, self-administered questionnaire. Ethical approval was obtained for the study. Knowledge scores were categorized as good (>75%), moderate (50-75% and poor (<50%). Data analysis was carried out using SPSS version 26.0.

**Results:** Of the sample, 65.3% have not attended any in-service training on patients’ rights. Mean overall knowledge was  $81.9 \pm 12.48$ . The majority (67.7%) had good, 31.7% had moderate and 1% had poor level of knowledge of patients’ rights. Good level of knowledge was evident on right to have respectful care (89.3%), right to privacy (91.7%) and right to receive good quality health services (91%) but 58 (19.9%) showed poor level of knowledge of right to prior consent. Nurses’ had positive attitudes about right to have respectful care, and a right to be informed. Negative attitudes were shown towards right to privacy, right to prior consent, and right to have quality health care. Nurses’ overall knowledge levels were significantly associated with current working area ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** A majority of nurses had a good level of knowledge and positive attitudes about patients’ rights. However, poor knowledge and negative attitudes were evident in some areas. Therefore, continuing education programs for nurses should be focused on improving their knowledge and attitudes towards patients’ rights in order to enhance quality of care for patients.