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THE TIME ALLOCATION OF NURSING PERSONNEL

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The pattern of nursing services is an important factor to affect the quality of medical services. Acknowledging of this, the author was motivated to conduct research on the time allocation of nursing personnel.

Nursing activities were categorized into four mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive groups: direct care, indirect care, unit related activities and personal activities. Work sampling method was used and two nursing units were selected.

The results revealed that:

1. Indirect activity is the most important activity (according to the time allocation).
2. The activity distributions vary with week days.

3. The two peaks of workload appear at 9-10 AM and 1-3 PM.

4. Unit related activities dominate head nurse's time allocation. Except few deviant nurses, all the other personnel have about the same time allocation on personal activities.

5. There are significant differences in between two nursing units.

This study represents the first formal effort toward nursing operation. It is expected to arouse more similar and related studies to be done and thus the standards of nursing time allocation pattern can be established.

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