

P65: Nurses and Speech Therapist in Continuing Care Units: the relevance of working together with patients who have communication deficits.

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Introduction: The difficulty of oral expression through verbal communication is a characteristic of patients admitted in the Continuing Care Units. In these situations the physical needs are mainly ensured by nurses. However communicative difficulties are not always considered essential to meet their needs or comfort. Studies carried out in the communication area describe the communicative process within the institutions as unidirectional, mostly controlled by caregivers and centralized in healthcare, which may be a consequence of little knowledge about the communication disorders. Objectives: This literature review aims to understand the current communication difficulties among the nurses working in Continuing Care and patients with communication difficulties and define the relevance of the intervention of the Speech Therapist.

Materials/Methods: Narrative review of scientific articles dated from 2003 to 2012 in English or Portuguese-language searched in PubMed and Elsevier, using the key-words “communication difficulties” and “Continuing Care Units”. Only 12 articles met the criteria.

Results and Discussion: it is proved that nurses feel communication difficulties when providing health care, especially in appealing to alternative strategies of nonverbal communication. The results proved that the team work between the Speech Therapist and Nurses is essential to provide the maximum comfort as far as communication issues are concerned and a better quality of life for the patient and his family.

Conclusion: The results show that the professionals do not have the knowledge required to use strategies that facilitate communication, continuously excluding patients with communication difficulties from the therapeutic process and from the decision making. The work of the Speech Therapist is important to create strategies that provide more effective communication.

References

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