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Missed nursing care among nurses working in pediatric intensive care units:A narrative review study

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Code:1371

This narrative review searched PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar, SID, Magiran, and IranMedex using keywords "Missed Nursing Care," "Pediatric Intensive Care Unit," and "Nurse," limited mainly to 2018–2026. Two authors independently screened titles, abstracts, and full texts, resolving disagreements through discussion or a third author. Data were extracted using a pre-designed form covering study type, population, instruments, types and prevalence of missed care, causes, and consequences. Due to methodological heterogeneity, findings were synthesized narratively (without meta-analysis) and presented in tabular and descriptive formats.

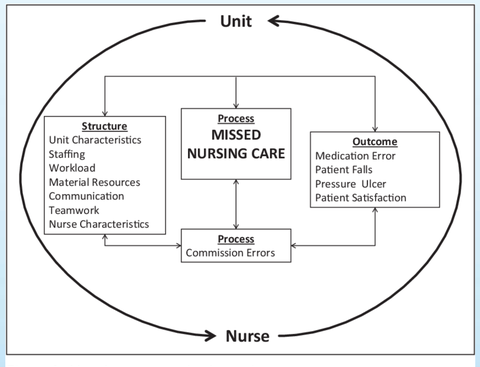
Missed nursing care is defined as any required aspect of patient care that is omitted, partially performed, or delayed, and is considered an error of omission and a serious threat to patient safety. Its main causes include human resource shortages (lack of nurses), high workload and inappropriate nurse-to-patient ratios, poor communication and incomplete shift handovers, and lack of material resources and equipment. In the PICU, these factors are intensified by the complexity of pediatric care, children's vulnerability, and the high-stress clinical environment.

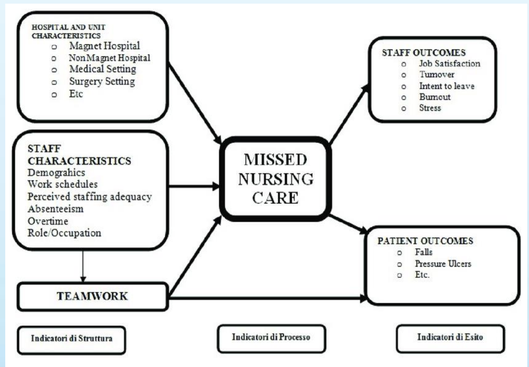
Missed nursing care in the PICU is a systemic issue driven by staff shortages, high workload, poor teamwork, and incomplete handovers. It leads to increased mortality, hospital-acquired complications, and nurse burnout. Reducing it requires optimizing nurse-to-patient ratios, strengthening teamwork, standardizing handovers, and implementing alarm management programs.

Missed nursing care is highly prevalent in the PICU, with oral care, repositioning, medication assessment, and documentation most frequently omitted. Its primary causes are staff shortages, high workload, and poor teamwork, leading to increased mortality, complications, and nurse burnout. Reducing it requires optimizing nurse-to-patient ratios, standardizing handovers, teamwork training, and alarm management programs.









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