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 Nursing Needs and Nursing Care Received by Patients being on Mechanical Ventilators

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#### Abstract

The objectives of this study were to compare nursing care needs and nursing care received by patients on mechanical ventilators, and to identify factors related to the nursing care needs. The subjects included 60 hospitalized patients on mechanical ventilators. The subjects were purposively selected according to the criteria set. An interviewing questionnaire which asked about nursing care needs and nursing care received was used as a tool to collect data. The questionnaire was composed of 76 items, 38 related to physical care, 29 psychosocial and 9 spiritual. The cronbach alpha coefficient of the nursing care needs and nursing care received items reference to each of the three dimensions were .85 to .90 and .82 to .88, respectively.

The results were as follows :

1. The distribution of the scores for physical, psychosocial, spiritual and overall nursing care needs was more on the higher level.

2. Of overall 76 items, 38 were identified as much needed by more than 70 percent of the subjects. These 38 items included 17 of 38 physical care needs, 18 of the 29 psychosocial and 3 of the 9 spiritual. The 17 physical care items much needed by 70 percent of the subjects were care of respiration, providing comfort, promoting sleep and body movement. The 18 psychosocial items were related to providing more interaction between patients and family, promoting patient's ability to communicate, nurses giving care with willingness, nurses giving information and suggestion. The spiritual care needed was family participation in giving care and patients being assured.

3. The number of times the subjects were on mechanical ventilators was the factor related to psychosocial and spiritual care needs. The subjects who were on a mechanical ventilator for the second time needed more psychosocial and spiritual care than those on a ventilator only once. No factor was related to the physical or overall care needs.

4. The t-test showed a statistically significant difference between nursing care needs and nursing care received in items of physical, psychosocial, spiritual and overall nursing care at the level of .001. The needs for nursing care were higher than the care received. Focusing on each nursing activity (item), the Wilcoxon Matched-Pairs-Signed-Ranks-Test revealed a statistically significant difference at .05 between nursing care needs and nursing care received of 58 out of 76 activities. Also the needs for nursing care were higher than the care received.