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Practice revitalisation of the role of the clinic nurse regarding growth development monitoring of children in the primary health care settings of Tshwane, Gauteng province

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A qualitative, descriptive, exploratory and contextual study was undertaken to explore and describe how clinic nurses practice their role regarding growth development monitoring and anthropometric measurement of children and interpretation of their values. An accessible population of twelve clinic nurses of all categories were purposively recruited to participate in the study. In depth individual interviews were conducted to generate data. Interviews were audio-taped and transcribed by the researcher verbatim. The direct quotes of participants were coded and arranged into meaning units for analysis. Tech's eight steps of analysis to analyse the textual qualitative data as cited by Creswell was used until themes, categories and subcategories were identified and developed. Data analysis was triangulated by using Atlas.ti computer software version 7.0 to organise text, audio data files coding, memos and findings into project files. An independent coder analysed data for validation using content analysis. Data analysis revealed that nurses had challenges in ways of doing practice evidenced by inconsistencies and discrepancies in GDM, APM of children and incorrect interpretation of their values. Non-compliance to protocols from both nurses and parents was a significant finding. Shortage of resources was reported as a major hindrance. Guidelines were formulated to guide clinic nurses. Recommendations were proposed that the matter be taken up by nurse managers, educators and leadership from the Department of Health.

Biography

M J Black has completed this PhD degree Doctor of Literature and Philosophy in 2017 from the University of South Africa and MCur including a Degree BCur I et A from the Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa). She completed several diplomas: Nursing Administration & Community Nursing (1996) from Medunsa; Pediatric Nursing Science: 1987; Midwifery 1984; General Nursing Science (1982) obtained with distinction from Nursing Colleges in South Africa. She presented an oral paper that got a first prize in her category. She is currently a Lecturer and Supervisor in post graduate research at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University.

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