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50th World Congress on

ADVANCED NURSING AND MIDWIFERY February 26-27, 2019 Osaka, Japan

Effect of integrated care system in Korea on patient safety

Eunhee Lee¹, Jinhyun Kim² and Sungjae Kim² ¹Hallym University, South Korea ²Seoul National University, South Korea

Korean government implemented an integrated care system to decrease the caregiving burden and improve the quality of Care. This system provides service with a nursing staff increased to about twice that in existing hospital nursing units, not counting caregivers. Standards for nurse staffing level in these units have been different for the various types and characteristics of hospitals; the standard for nurse staffing level is highest in tertiary hospitals. The nursing assistant handles personal care, such as assistance with activities of daily living, and the registered nurse handles all skilled nursing care, such as medication, assessment and intervention. This study aimed to investigate the effect of integrated care system in Korea, especially on the patient safety outcomes such as pressure ulcer and patient fall. 60,049 patients who were admitted to integrated care units were retrospectively enrolled. Data were obtained from the National Health Insurance (NHI) in Korea. Mixed-effects logistic regression and survival analysis was used to identify the factors affecting patient falls and pressure ulcer. Of individual factors, age, mobility problem were found to be significant influencing factors for patient fall and gender, age, nursing needs were significant influencing factors for pressure ulcer. In case of organizational factor, nurse staffing were influencing factors for both fall and pressure ulcer. To ensure patient safety, nurse leader should retain adequate level of nurses.

Biography

Eunhee Lee has completed his PhD from Seoul National University, South Korea and is currently the Assistant Professor of Hallym University, South Korea.

ehlee@hallym.ac.kr

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