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The perceptions of other health care professionals on the value and roles of clinical nurses

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What are the value and roles of nursing? This proposition has been investigated and explored a lot in the field of nursing. Nursing is a human science which indicates the caring to people. As a profession, nursing not only represents to take care of patients but also includes making contact and interacts with the patients, their families and other health care professionals very closely and frequently. The complexity of cross-disciplinary care often results in more discussions among health care professionals. This could further put additional stresses on nurses. The recognition and feedback from patients, their families and other health care professionals are important factors for clinical nurses to feel supported and motivated. Going through literature, most of the studies put their attention on the perspectives of nurses, patients and their families but only few studies have discussed about the viewpoint from other health care professionals. Therefore, this study aimed to understand the perceptions of other health care professionals towards the value and roles of clinical nurses. The study was based on a qualitative research design. It consisted of 90 participants that included directors, physicians, rehabilitation therapist, social workers, pharmacists, psychologists, nutritionists, respiratory therapists, medical technologists and radiologists. Data were gathered through individual interviews, using a semi-structured guide to conduct the content analysis. Five primary themes were identified which were multi-function roles, performance of professional quality, sources of positive energy, hardship, limitations and future expectations. By understanding the perceptions of other health care professionals towards clinical nurses, it may promote the team work spirits among health care professionals and eventually create harmony in the workplace.

Biography

Chang-Ting Tsou is currently pursuing her PhD from the Graduate Institute of Clinical Medical Sciences, College of Medicine at Chang Gung University. She has received her BS degree from College of Fooyin University in 2004 and MS degree from Graduate Institute of Nursing College of at Chang Gung University, 2007, Tao Yuan, Taiwan. Her research interests are in nursing education, clinical of critical care and health nursing of adult.

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