

17th World Congress on

Clinical Nursing & Practice

August 29-30, 2018 | Zurich, Switzerland

Physician – nurse professional collaboration

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Background: In recent years, health organizations are seeking to provide health care services in high-quality and more cost-effectively. The communication and cooperation are getting more important in decreasing medical errors, increasing patients' satisfaction and providing patients' safety. Many health care providers are involving to provide health care services, diagnosing tests and interventions during the period of administering and discharging of patients following treatment from hospitals. The lack of communication and cooperation among health care providers is an effective factor resulting with medical errors. In particular inadequate communication between physicians and nurses is said to be the cause of achieving negative outcomes and medical errors for the patients. Many experts and health organizations encourage their employees to cooperate to prevent medical errors.

Purpose: This is a descriptive study which was conducted to assess the attitudes of the Faculty of Medicine and Nursing students towards physician-nurse professional collaboration.

Materials & Methods: The sample of the study was 320 students who accepted participation to the survey studying at Turgut Ozal University School of Medicine and the School of Nursing. Data were collected by the personal information forms and Jefferson nurse physician professional collaboration scales. The database was created considering dependent and independent variables of the survey data by utilizing SPSS - Statistical Package for the Social Sciences Version 21.0 software computer program. Descriptive values (frequency, percentages, mean, standard deviation, minimum, maximum values) of the survey data were calculated. The relationships between the variables were analyzed by using Pearson χ^2 Fisher Exact, Mann Whitney U tests. During the assessment $p < 0.05$ value was accepted as a statistically significant result.

Findings: 75% (n=240) of the students who have participated in the study were female and 25% (n=80) were male. The mean age was $21:36 \pm 2.02$; 46.6% of students (n=149) were studying in the Faculty of Medicine and 53.4% (n=171) were studying in the School of Nursing. According to the department they were studying the students showed a significant difference for the comparison of the question whether nurses were the professional collaborators of physicians rather than physicians' assistants ($p < 0.001$). And to support this question the affirmative answer of Nursing Students was found significantly higher than the Medical Students. In the study; when Jefferson nurse physician professional collaboration scales mean averages of the students were looked at; it was found that the scores of the students studying at the Faculty of Medicine were significantly higher than the students studying at the School of Nursing ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: The students of the University participated in the study were thinking that more efforts should be implemented to provide improved collaboration between healthcare providers. In order to develop relationship of nurses with physicians more positively, new projects planning and implementation by the students was recommended.