

Physicians and Nurses Awareness of Patients Rights within the Ministry of Health Care Institutions in Oman

Aisha Nasser Al Saadi^{1*}, Salah Ben Ammar Slimane¹, Rawya² and FatemaYaqoob Al Jabri³

¹Al Buraimi Governorate, Ministry of Health, Oman

²Sohar hospital, Oman

³Al Nahdha Hospital, Oman

Objectives: There have been many declarations defining the importance of the right to lead a healthy life. Sultanate of Oman, the Royal Decree (No. 26/75) assured the citizens that health care is a fundamental right, and should be delivered free-of-charge to all. This Decree seeks justice for all citizens and equity in access to health care. However, there is no specific legislation relevant to health care covering the issue of patients' rights and violation of patients' rights are common in local health institutions. This study aimed to determine the extent to which physicians and nurses are aware and adhere to six domains of patients' rights and how this awareness is differ by the role, nationality, position, and health care institutional level.

Method: Cross sectional survey conducted using self-reported questionnaire. Nurses and physicians (685 and 528 respectively) working in different health care levels recruited from 23 MOH health care institutions by proportional stratified random sampling.

Results: Data on 1213 (87%) revealed high perception of importance of patients right among nurses and physicians 1110 (91.51%) with low adherence 774 (63.81%) to these rights in real practice. The study found nationality of health care providers, their role and institute level significantly associated with the perception of importance and adherence to patients' rights, p-values (0.0021, 0.0244, 0.0338, and 0.0001) respectively.

Conclusion: Results of this study show that awareness of the six domains of patients' rights is optimal according to nurses' and physicians' perceptions; although the performance requires promotion, specifically in the area of information. The results have showed; non-Omani staff more than Omani to perceive and adhere to patients' rights. Tertiary hospital staff two times primary health care institutes staff in perception, and physicians fifty percent more than nurses in perceiving the importance of patients' rights.

Biography:

Ms. Aisha Nasser Al Saadi is a Senior Nurse, Head of Studies and Research Department, directorate of Planning and Studies in Al Buraimi Governorate, Ministry of Health, Oman.