

Technological Integration in the Nursing Role

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Description

Nursing is a dynamic and essential component of the healthcare system, evolving continuously to meet the complex and diverse needs of patients. The role of nurses has expanded significantly beyond basic patient care to encompass a broad range of responsibilities including patient advocacy, health education and participation in clinical decision-making. This short communication aims to the evolution of nursing, highlighting the impact of modern healthcare challenges and approaches adopted by the profession to address these challenges.

The integration of technology in nursing practice has revolutionized patient care, improving efficiency and outcomes. Nurses now utilize Electronic Health Records (EHRs) to access and update patient information, ensuring accurate and timely documentation. This has enhanced coordination among healthcare providers and reduced the incidence of medical errors. Moreover, telehealth has emerged as a vital tool, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing nurses to provide remote care, monitor patients and conduct follow-up visits. This not only expands access to care but also alleviates the burden on healthcare facilities.

Nurses are also employing advanced medical devices and software for patient monitoring, medication administration and diagnostic procedures. For instance, smart infusion pumps and automated medication dispensing systems help prevent medication errors, while wearable devices enable continuous monitoring of vital signs, facilitating early detection of health issues.

Nursing roles

The scope of nursing practice has expanded, with nurses taking on advanced roles and specializations to meet the growing demands of healthcare. Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs), nurse anesthetists and nurse midwives are among the Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) who provide comprehensive care, including diagnosis and treatment, often independently or in collaboration with physicians.

Specializations in areas such as oncology, geriatrics, critical

care and pediatrics allow nurses to develop expertise in specific fields, enhancing the quality of care provided to patients with complex conditions. This specialization is supported by advanced education and certification programs health issues effectively.

One of the most pressing challenges facing the nursing profession is the shortage of qualified nurses. This shortage is attributed to factors such as an aging workforce, high turnover rates and an increasing demand for healthcare services due to an aging population and the prevalence of chronic diseases. Addressing this issue requires multifaceted strategies, including enhancing nursing education, improving working conditions and offering incentives for retention.

Patient-centered care

Modern healthcare emphasizes holistic and patient-centered care, recognizing the importance of addressing not only physical health but also psychological, social and emotional well-being. Nurses play a pivotal role in this approach, serving as patient advocates and ensuring that care plans are tailored to the individual needs and preferences of patients.

Patient-centered care involves active communication and collaboration with patients and their families, respecting their values and involving them in decision-making processes. This approach enhances patient satisfaction, adherence to treatment plans and overall health outcomes. Nurses are also involved in health promotion and disease prevention efforts, educating patients on lifestyle modifications and self-care practices to improve their quality of life.

In an increasingly diverse society, cultural competence in nursing is essential for delivering effective and equitable care. Nurses must be equipped with the skills to understand and respect cultural differences, addressing potential barriers to care and ensuring that all patients receive appropriate and sensitive treatment.

Cultural competence training is integrated into nursing education and professional development programs, covering topics such as communication, health beliefs and practices of different cultural groups. By fostering an inclusive environment and promoting diversity within the nursing workforce, healthcare institutions can better meet the needs of diverse patient populations and reduce health disparities.

The nursing profession has evolved significantly, adapting to the changing landscape of healthcare and embracing advancements that enhance patient care. The integration of technology, the expansion of advanced nursing roles and the emphasis on holistic and patient-centered care are key developments. However, challenges such as the nursing shortage and the need for cultural competence must be addressed to ensure the continued delivery of high-quality care.