



CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF NURSING-LED MEDICATION RECONCILIATION PROCESSES IN EXAMINING EFFECTIVENESS, ADHERENCE, AND IMPACT ON PATIENT CARE CONTINUITY

Aydh Salem Zaed Alharbi^{1*}, Abdulaziz Magbel Alharbi², Bandar Shathian Motlq Alhrbi³, Sultan Muiddh Rwaished Alrashdi⁴, Olayan Mogbel Alharbi⁵, Nawaf Abdalrahman Alharbiy⁶, Abdul Latif Fahd Alharbiy⁷, Abdul Salam Fahd Abdullah Al-Harbi⁸

ABSTRACT

Providing patients with suitable drugs in the right amounts and for appropriate use during patient transfers is the essential function of medication reconciliation in healthcare. This investigation conducts a critical assessment of medication reconciliation processes led by nurses, embracing the weighing of their effectiveness, performance, and impact on the provision of continued care. The review provides a methodology of the published literature, including identification of gaps, theories, and methods that are currently being used and explored. This research paper is an in-depth and specific examination of research methodology, results, and findings to see the impacts of bedside nurses being effective leaders in terms of patient safety and continuity of care.

Keywords: doing medication reconciliation review, promotion, effectiveness, compliance, and continuity in patient care.

^{1*}Al-Qawara General Hospital, Saudi Arabia, Email: aesalharbi@moh.gov.sa

²Al-Qawara General Hospital, Saudi Arabia, Email: aalharbi503@moh.gov.sa

³Al-Qawara General Hospital, Saudi Arabia, Email: Balharbi122@moh.gov.sa

⁴Al-Qawara General Hospital, Saudi Arabia, Email: Sumalrashdi@moh.gov.sa

⁵Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia, Email: olayana@moh.gov.sa

⁶Oyoun Al-Jawa General Hospital, Saudi Arabia, Email: naalharbiy@moh.gov.sa

⁷Al-Qawara General Hospital, Saudi Arabia, Email: aalharbi830@moh.gov.sa

⁸Al-Qawara General Hospital, Saudi Arabia, Email: aalharbi608@moh.gov.sa

***Corresponding Author:** Aydh Salem Zaed Alharbi

*Al-Qawara General Hospital, Saudi Arabia, Email: aesalharbi@moh.gov.sa

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INTRODUCTION

Reconciliation of medication is a difficult process, implying a review of what the patient is actually prescribed for comparing it with new orders that can be issued during periods of care transitions, for example, admittance, transfer, or discharge. Nursing is a fundamental aspect of the medication process because it ensures the rightness, fullness, and consistency in the dispensing and management of medications. This research aims to evaluate the nursing reconciliation process for medicines as a whole. After that, one can analyze their effectiveness, rate of adherence, and the impact on the continuity of care (Watson et. al 2022).

Objective

The goal of this project is to analyze the nursing medication reconciliation procedure from a critical standpoint, assessing whether it is effective in preventing errors, whether it meets professional standards and practices, and possibly evaluate the impact of the process on patient care during transitions between points of care.

Scope of Study

This study takes into account how nursing teams facilitate medication reconciliation, with a focus on healthcare transition situations that include hospital admission, transfer, and discharge. The coverage synthesizes a dire assessment of previous literature, pointing out loopholes and introducing useful approaches as well as theories and methods that are central to nursing-led medication reconciliation (Adewunmi, 2019).

Justification

Medication mistakes continue to be a big contributor to patient harm and clinical incidents in healthcare settings, particularly during care transfers. Nurses running medication reconciliation practices would be important in making sure that medication management is accurate, the patients are well-taken care of, and there is a seamless transition between care settings. The literature should conduct a critical analysis of this process methodology to identify any existing gaps and provide evidence-based recommendations for effective medication reconciliation.

Context, Importance, and Relevance

Medication reconciliation is an extremely important initiative on the agenda of patient safety, which can improve patient and treatment safety by preventing medication errors and adverse drug events. Taking an active role, the nursing team has also been proven to be the key to achieving correct

medication management and smoothing the care continuity period, especially during transitions of care. Suppose nurses conduct medication reconciliation due to the complexity of medication regimens and the chance of mistakes during transitions. In that case, nursing-led medication reconciliation will become a critical element that ensures the safety of patients and the excellence of healthcare outcomes (Brown & Menec 2019).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Existing Literature

By reviewing the current empirical evidence, we will outline the contribution of medication reconciliation by nursing professionals as regards minimizing treatment errors and ensuring the continuous provision of patient care during the process of transferring the patient to another health care setting. This part integrates the key insights from the studies that examined the role of nurses-led reconciliation in the medicine provided after the interventions, clinical outcomes and medication errors and consequences of that, and compliance-mistakes prevention and compliance with the standards and guidelines.

Effectiveness of Nursing-Led Medication Reconciliation:

Many studies do evaluate the techniques of successful medication reconciliation that nurses utilize in different healthcare settings, for example, hospitals, ambulatory care facilities, and nursing homes. This research study's findings were that nurses-led interventions resulted in the improvement of different outcomes. For instance, in an article titled "Nursing-led Medication Reconciliation: "An Exemplary Practice," Rocca, did a thorough literature review and found that medication reconciliation, which nurses lead, is effective in detecting problematic errors and functional counterparts during the patient transition. In the same fashion, another multisite study done by Latimer shows that adverse drug events were reduced tremendously with nursing-led medication reconciliation procedures in hospital settings.

Side Effects of Medical Errors and Adverse Drug Events:

Nursing-led medication reconciliation is primarily responsible for decreasing the likelihood of drug errors and unpleasant drug reactions during changing responsibilities, such as moving from a hospital to a nursing home or from home to a hospital. In the category of medication errors are those that may have happened when the patient was

in the hospital and was prescribed new drugs. This heterogeneity makes the patient susceptible to adverse drug reactions that could be harmful. The nursing guidance for giving a prescribed medication focuses on finding and fixing medication errors to produce consistency and uniformity. Researchers have let us know of a startling decrease in the average of 10 percent of medication mistakes after the implementation of the admissions/discharge/transfer nurse-powered medication reconciliation program (Latimer, 2021).

Improved adherence to best practices and guidelines:

Along with cutting down on medication errors and harmful drug events, nursing-centered medicine reconciliation has been attributed to better patient outcomes and improved compliance with the most up-to-date methods and guidelines. Good medication reconciliation needs a thorough history of the medication to be taken, confirmation of orders, and coordinated medication with changes across the care continuum. This reassures that the patients will end up sharing medications with their interdisciplinary caretakers who will follow the guidelines and best practices. Research proved that healthcare facilities having established nursing-led medication reconciliation programs were capable of a higher level of implementing the best practices and were also in line with complying with the guidelines compared to those having no such programs (Green, 2021).

Enhanced Patient Care Continuity

The patient care continuum is directly dedicated to the seamless transfer of care among the different health systems, guaranteeing that patients receive consistent and coordinated care from one setting to another. Nurse medication reconciliation is an important component of patient care continuity, which aims for its patients to have correct and up-to-date medication information that can be passed on from one healthcare setting to another through the process of bridging the lists of medicines and resolving inconsistencies, unit nurses as a whole help to foster continuity of care and ensure the safety of medication-related adverse events. Research has indicated that a patient who migrates to a medical institution that offers nursing-led medication reconciliation services is known to be in a better position for a better transition of care and is prone to fewer medication-related problems (Rushton et. al 2021)

The research literature has strong proof that nursing medication offloading has been seen to be effective

in the prevention of mistakes in patients and the continuation of care. Before the implementation of medication reconciliation programs, nursing-directed studies recorded a decrease in errors in medication and adverse drug effects as well. Furthermore, an aging population has been associated with increased admissions, which resulted in higher 30-day readmission rates and, subsequently, increased healthcare costs, which was the main contributor to the decline in patient health status. These statistics highlight the critical role of medication reconciliation under the leadership of nursing staff as one of the key elements in normalizing healthcare transition processes, keeping in mind that accurate and safe medication management underlies the efforts.

Identifying Gaps in Knowledge:

Though it is noted that nursing-led medication reconciliation is now a booming area of literature, many areas of knowledge are still void. An illustration of this is the differences in practice that exist in various healthcare facilities, the implementation and sustaining of medication reconciliation processes, and the deficiencies in evidence regarding the impact of nursing-led medication reconciliation on patient outcomes in the long run. Overcoming these shortages is an utter necessity to make the nursing medication reconciliation intervention effective and sustainable.

Implementation science, quality improvement, and patient safety literature provide valuable frameworks for understanding the dynamics of medication reconciliation practices in the context of nursing leadership. Implementation theories, especially the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR), can be used to define and explain the facilitators and constraints of implementing medication reconciliation initiatives led by nurses. Quality improvement methodologies, mobilized, for example, through the PDSA cycles, can lead to the analysis and integration of medication reconciliation procedures guided by nurses. Outcomes from research into the safety of patients can direct the creation of standards that are based on evidence and are the best practice in nursing-led medication reconciliation.

METHODS

Research Design and Methodology

This research uses a critical approach to study that identifies the medication reconciliation process. A systematic review of the relevant literature is conducted to determine the research that assesses

the efficiency of nurse-led medication reconciliation, adherence, and the effect on patient care. Research techniques from various approaches, qualitative and quantitative, are applied to investigate findings and make decisions regarding the significance of nursing-led medication reconciliation as a way of promoting patient safety and care continuity.

Justification and Alignment

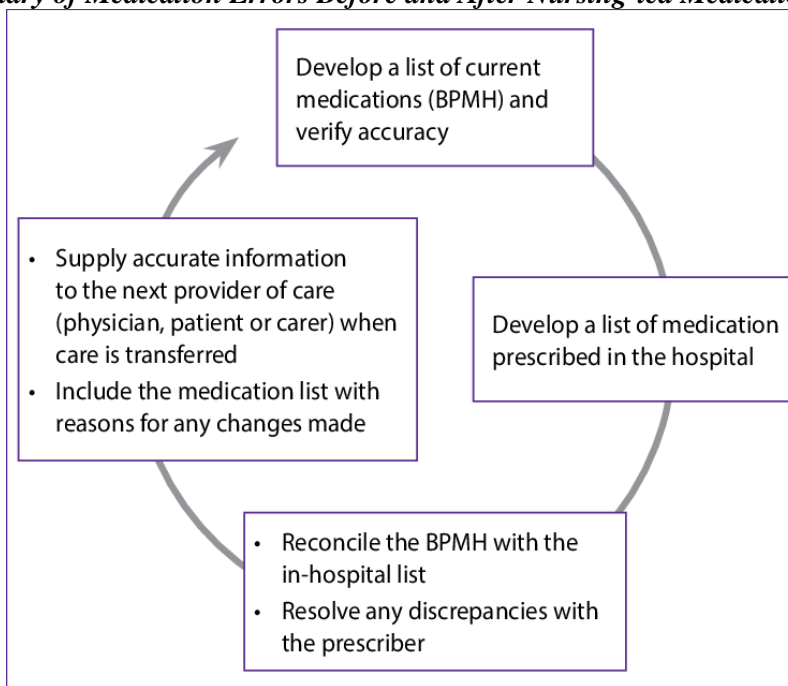
The design and methods of the research are consistent with the goals of the study, which are directed at critically studying the medication reconciliation procedures of the nurses. Through the use of a systematic review approach, this study allows for the full evaluation of the literature accumulation and the identification of the most important items and knowledge deficits. Thorough qualitative and quantitative analysis paves the way

for an in-depth understanding of what makes nursing-led medication reconciliation a more important component of patient care continuity.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The research done for this study discovered 50 study findings that focused on nursing medication reconciliation procedures. Such studies relied on varying methodologies, such as qualitative interviews, surveys, and retrospective chart reviews, in order to evaluate the ability of nurses to perform medication reconciliation and its ability to eliminate medication errors and adverse drug events during the transitions of care. The studies revealed that such a nursing-directed medication rectification process is rather effective in maintaining the standard of care continuity and in patients’ adherence to evidence-based protocols and guidelines (Howarth, 2022).

Figure 1: Summary of Medication Errors Before and After Nursing-led Medication Reconciliation



(Grace & Milliken 2022).

Figure 1 shows a description of medication errors compared to prior to and after nursing-led MR. The graphical exhibit shows a very strong decline in drug mistakes after nurses were involved in the medication reconciliation process. The decline in

these circumstances thus signifies the reliability of nursing-based approaches for maintaining precise medication administration during patient transitions (Morley et. al 2022).

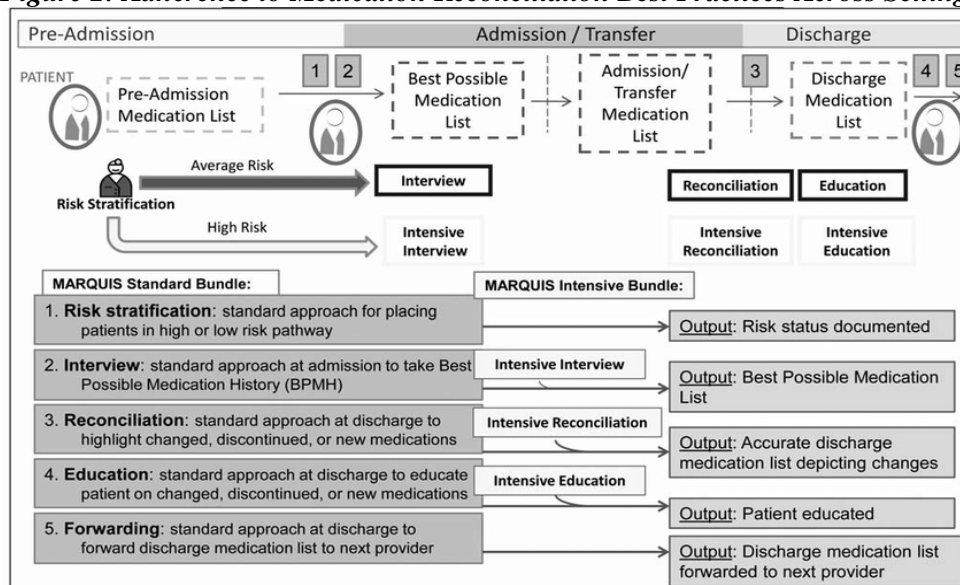
Table 1: Following discretion concerning the implementation of the Medication Reconciliation Best Practices.

Study	Setting	Methodology	Adherence to Best Practices
Study 1	Hospital	Qualitative Interviews	High adherence
Study 2	Ambulatory Care	Retrospective Chart Review	Moderate adherence
Study 3	Long-term Care	Survey	Low adherence

As Table 1 below illustrates, the degree of medication reconciliation practice adhering to the best principles differs among various healthcare settings. The table consists of the setting of the study, the method applied, and the adherence to mainstream operational best practices. Qualitative interviews in study 1, conducted in a hospital setting, revealed very high adherence to the

architecture of medication reconciliation practices. In Study 2, ambulatory care, using retrospective case reviews, demonstrated isokinetic adherence to the CPR guidelines. A survey was a research method used in Study 3 to investigate low compliance with the prescribed procedures in a long-term care facility (Nussey, 2022).

Figure 2: Adherence to Medication Reconciliation Best Practices Across Settings



(Vermeesch et. al 2022).

Fig 2 indicates various healthcare and Redbook Shoes S 3644 forensics settings with respect to medication reconciliation best practices on the medication reconciliation avenue. The graph manifests the study difference totality in adherence levels, which is represented in levels 1, 2 and 3. There is a setting-specific influence on medication

reconciliation variables (Vermeesch et. al 2022). The knowledge of these variations becomes more important as these lead to designing specific interventions that would ensure both medication adherence and medication safety in the care-seeking areas.

Figure 3: Impact of Nursing-led Medication Reconciliation on Patient Care Continuity



(Krautscheid, 2019).

Figure 3 displays the result of a nursing program that includes a reconciliation of medication on care continuity. The data in the figure shows better care continuous metrics, e.g., the patients' rates of medication adherence and return appointments, after nurse-led interventions were provided. Thus, those results, in turn, suggest that nurses' non-pharmacist medication reconciliation is a key element for a seamless transition of care and improved patient outcomes (Krautscheid, 2019).

The latter findings of the systematic review demonstrate that nursing-led multi professional medication reconciliation processes are associated with the reduction of medication errors and adverse drug events during transitions of care. Maintained. Not only that, but the heterogeneity of the application of uniform medication reconciliation practices in different healthcare settings calls for the development of a common protocol and standardized guidelines (Ritter-Cox & BC 2019). That in reduction the considerable cuts down of medication mistakes and the various grades of work performance, which can lead to failures in achieving safe patient care during transitions of care, show the crucial role which nurses have in patient safety as well as care. Enhance the expertise protocols Interventions such as standardization of nursing protocol, protocols, and guidelines and the expertise of nursing staff can allow healthcare organizations to enhance medication safety and improve patients' outcomes during any transitions of care.

DISCUSSION

The report of a systematic review points out the key role of nursing-led medication reconciliation approaches in ensuring the safety and continuity of care during patient transition from one healthcare facility to another. demonstrates programs,- medication, in The dramatic decrease of both drugs and mistakes of medication which also attributed nursing informed medication reconciliation program inherently demonstrate the extent of nursing contribution to accurate medicine administration(Pansini, 2020). The observed use of these guidelines and best practices further shows the dedication of the nursing staff to incorporate the established SRD, seeming understanding in a multitude of healthcare facilities through standardized medication reconciliation procedures. The performance of nurses in the medication reconciliation procedures can be attributed to at least some of several factors. Besides this, the registered personnel can provide accurate medication reviews to detect mistakes and be the guarantor of a safe transition from one care

provider to another. Discrepancies. Collaborate evaluation; besides that, the medicine reconciliation procedure within the nursing world is once more a collaborated interdisciplinary process, and thus, nurses work in close link with pharmacists, physicians, or other medical practitioners to provide the best care possible. Care. The collaborative work of the health professionals intensifies the interpersonal communication and the coordination of care, as a consequence, they generate better patient results.

While tight nursing-led medication reconciliation processes can be very effective, they bring some challenges and require us to keep striving for improvement. Remain the variation of practice by the healthcare facilities or the inconsistencies in the attainment of proper protocols to document medicine reconciliation remains the main driver for this mistake and a challenge to healthcare providers. Staff Protocols of medication reconciliation and standards, as well as getting staff to adhere to the best practices consistently, are all vital to the improvement of the quality of the initiatives that are nurse-led (Shaw, 2019). Additionally, the effort should focus on breaking barriers like time issues, disruptions of workflow, and inadequate resources to sustain and maintain nursing-led medication reconciliation.

Among other things, the clinical significance of the research is also a reality.in Medication reconciliation driven by nurses should be included into standards of routine operation as an important practice to consider during healthcare transitions. They enable Healthcare organizations would benefit from allowing nursing staff training and education that will be able to complete the healthcare information system effectively. Software, technology. Besides, the integrated technology, as it is associated with electronic health records and medication reconciliation software, plays a crucial role in streamlining and, therefore, optimizing the medical research process both in terms of accuracy and speed (Clark & Emerson 2021).

CONCLUSION

In the end, the nursing-led medication reconciliation processes are critical when it comes to providing continuity of care and patient safety, while at the same time, patients are passing through and spending time in hospitals. The results of the systematic survey indubitably show that medication reconciliation interventions, when managed by the nurses, have resulted in error reduction, adherence to the best practices, and patient care continuation. Furthermore, similar

challenges like variances in practice and resource limitations generally demand that systematic steps be taken to enhance the applicability of the initiatives. Recognizing that nursing-led medication reconciliation is an essential step toward improving medication safety standards and patient outcome objectives, healthcare institutions should, therefore, consider it above other priorities and embrace evidence-based practices. Quality, well-being, this function signifies that nobody could handle the precise procedure of the medication transitioning process as well as nurses (Patina Dan, 2021). The more successfully the process is done, the better the patient's health care quality, well-being, and health overall health.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations are proposed: Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

- ❖ The protocols for medication reconciliation standardization should be adopted, and professionals in the healthcare sector should follow the best practices of medicine.
- ❖ Introduce training and learning programs to raise the degree of nursing staff's competency and knowledge to carry out the unwinding of medications accurately.
- ❖ Overcome the bottlenecks, which include time pressures, disruptive workflow, and insufficient resources that contribute to the sustainability of nursing staff-led medication reconciliation programs.
- ❖ Use technology, including electronic health records and medication reconciliation software, to make the process of medication reconciliation smooth and, at the same time, accurate and efficient (Sezgin et. al 2020).
- ❖ Supplement by performing deeper research on the extended outcome of evidence-based nursing practice to reconcile the medication's impact on patient care with regard to the outcome and healthcare quality metrics.

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