

**Abstract**

**Original Paper**

**Awareness and Attitudes of Nurses Working in a University Hospital on Patients' Rights**

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**Abstract**

**Objective:** Existing institutional and legal regulations on patient rights imposes duties and responsibilities for all health personnel on this issue. Awareness and implementation of these responsibilities is very crucial to prevent legal problems that might arise. This study aims to determine the ideas and attitudes of nurses related to patients' rights.

**Methods:** The data were collected from 211 nurses out of 371 working in *the Uludag University Faculty of Medicine Hospital in 2012*. The selection of the participants was made on the voluntary basis. The data was gathered through an attitudes questionnaire including the socio-demographic information, patients' rights and the implementations of those in the hospital. The data were analysed statistically with averages and percentages.

**Results:** Mean age of the nurses was  $32.81 \pm 6.18$  years and %49.3 of the cases were working at clinics, average age of occupation was  $10.18 \pm 7.16$  years and average work length in hospital was  $8.07 \pm 6.87$  years. %72.5 of the cases were trained about patient rights. The status of being aware of the department of patient rights of the departments of patient rights in the hospitals of %79.1 of the cases and %64.1 of the cases stated that these units were actively working. %31.3 of the cases faced with a problem related with patient rights and %10.4 of the cases faced with violation of patient rights. The patients which cases consider them at highest risk for violations were unconscious patients (%35.5), oncology patients (%19.4) and intensive care patients (%17.5). %94.3 of the cases stated that they care about keeping secrets of the patients, %99.1 of the cases stated that they protect privacy of the patients during any kind of interventions about diagnose, treatment and care, %82.5 of the cases stated that they obtain written/verbal consent. Most problematic patients about obtaining informed consent were intensive care patients (%45).

**Conclusion:** The number of nurses trained about patient rights and behaviours of the nurses towards preserving privacy, obtaining consent and keeping secrets are not adequate. It is recommended that institutional training for nurses must be improved.

**Key words:** rights of patients, nurses awareness, nurses attitudes to patient rights