

STANDPOINT

By Assoc. Prof. Silviya Ivanova Filkova, PhD

Member of the scientific jury according to order no. R-109-52/15.02.2024. Of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna.

Regarding: Defense of a dissertation on the topic "Ethical aspects of the health care provided by nurses to elderly and older people" developed by lecturer Petya Georgieva Krumova from the College of Medicine at the Thrace University Stara Zagora for the purpose of awarding the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in Higher education area: 7. Healthcare and Sport, Professional field 7.4. Public health and scientific specialty: Health care management.

On the basis of Protocol No. 1/26.02.2024 from the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, I have been assigned to prepare an standpoint.

The documents and materials submitted by Petya Georgieva Krumova on soft and hard copy has been prepared in accordance with the Development of Academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act , the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and and Regulations on Academic Staff Development at Medical University – Varna.

Brief biographical data

Petya Krumova graduated as a specialist nurse at the Medical College at the Trakia University of Stara Zagora in 2000. Graduated with an Bachelor's degree in Health Care at the Higher Medical Institute – Plovdiv in 2006, and in 2009 obtained an Master's degree in Defense and Security Economics at the University of National and World Economy – Sofia. In 2014, he acquired the Master's Degree in Health Care Management at the Medical University of Sofia.

Petya Krumova's professional experience began in 2000. as an Operating Nurse University Multidisciplinary Hospital for Active Treatment - Stara Zagora" EAD for eight years. Since 2008 continues her career as a Senior Nurse at the Operating Unit of the University Multidisciplinary Hospital for Active Treatment "Prof. Dr. Stoyan Kirkovich" Stara Zagora for a period of six years. From 2018 to 2021 has been appointed to the position of: Senior nurse in the Operating room of Multidisciplinary Hospital for Active Treatment TRAKIA EOOD - Stara Zagora

The teaching career of the PhD student began in 2014. as a lecturer in Health Care at the Medical College of Trakia University - Stara Zagora.

She teaches the specialties: Medical Cosmetologist, Rehabilitator, Medical Laboratory Assistant, and Optician. Leads classes in academic disciplines: Health Care and Clinical Practice.

Participated in the Erasmus program in 2016. at the Medical College of the University of Latvia. Has numerous trainings and attended scientific events. There are over 20 publications and 6 project participations.

Relevance and importance of the topic

The medico-social significance of the ethical aspects related to health care for the elderly and the elderly is particularly relevant in our time given the demographic, economic and social crisis in recent years. I share the PhD student's assertion that this reality presents health care professionals with increasingly serious challenges in providing affordable, quality and sustainable services. Health care professionals are expected to provide long-term care to the elderly in order to improve their quality of life and their fuller inclusion in society.

Structure and content of the dissertation

The scientific work submitted for review is structured according to the modern standards adopted in our country and the requirements of the Medical University Prof. Dr. "Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna regarding a dissertation for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor". The dissertation is written on 146 pages. Includes literature review (41 pages), purpose, objectives, methods, materials, study organization (15 pages), results and analysis (55 pages), Model for implementing ethical nursing care in a nursing home (10 pages), conclusion, conclusions, recommendations and contributions. The work is illustrated with 11 tables, 52 figures and 3 appendices. 173 literary sources are cited, of which 56 are in Cyrillic and 117 are in Latin.

Purpose, tasks, hypotheses

The aim of the dissertation is precisely and clearly formulated: To investigate, study, analyze and evaluate the ethical aspects of health care provided by nurses for the elderly and old people, according to the demographic situation in the country and the medico-social problems in geriatrics. It is a logical extension of the in-depth literature review, the author's expertise and the identified problems to be solved.

Five consecutive tasks have been derived, fully covering the set complex problem. Three working hypotheses that correspond to the set tasks were investigated.

Material, methods, tools

The subject of the study is the ethical aspects of health care for elderly and old people housed in institutions.

The object of research are:

- Healthcare professionals working in healthcare institutions for the elderly and old people in the Stara Zagora region.
- Students majoring in "Nursing" from MU-Varna affiliate Sliven, Trakia University Stara Zagora and its affiliate in Haskovo.
- Consumers of health care - elderly and old people housed in institutions on the territory of the Stara Zagora region.

The study includes 303 individuals divided into three groups:

First group – nurses practicing in institutions providing health care for elderly and older people in Stara Zagora district (n = 55).

Second group – persons aged over 65 accommodated in these institutions (n = 100).

Third group – third- and fourth-year nurse students in the above mentioned universities (n = 148).

There are clear criteria for inclusion and exclusion from the study.

The methodology is presented precisely and selected adequately to the set tasks and corresponds to the complex nature of the research thesis. This guarantees the reliability of the results of one's own research, the complete coverage of the researched problem and the correct drawing of conclusions from the scientific development, which is an excellent certificate for the dissertation student's research capabilities.

Survey results

The results of the own research and their discussion are comprehensively presented in several parts and are well structured according to the tasks set.

In order to establish the main difficulties faced by nurses when providing health care for the elderly and the elderly in an institutional environment, five main types of difficulties were analyzed: insufficient knowledge and skills for caring for the elderly; insufficient number of personnel; lack of a modern material and technical base; features of the psychosocial climate in the medical team and disturbed relationships between nurse and patient.

As the main difficulty in providing care for the elderly and the elderly, the interviewed nurses indicated the insufficient number of staff and the insufficiently good material and technical base in which care for the elderly and the elderly is provided. This outlines the trend that quality care is provided by a sufficient number of qualified medical personnel in an environment that meets all modern requirements for care for the elderly and old people with or without health problems, taking into account the physical capabilities and health status of the residents in the respective institution or unit. For nearly 1/3 of the surveyed medical specialists, the main difficulties in providing health care for the elderly and the elderly on a daily basis are insufficient knowledge and skills to provide this type of specialized care in their routine practice.

I accept the theoretical-cognitive and practical-applied contributions, which are 8 in total. In my opinion, the main merit of the dissertation is the following of them:

A model has been developed for the introduction of ethical nursing care for persons placed in institutions providing care for the elderly and old people, tailored to their individual needs.

Proposals have been formulated for the responsible institutions to conduct a postgraduate studies on the current problems of geriatric care for practicing nurses.

Publications on the topic of the dissertation

In connection with the dissertation work, the doctoral student presents two real publications that meet the criteria laid down in the regulations for the development of the academic staff of Varna Medical University. They have been published in a collection of international scientific conferences, they really present the achievements of the doctoral student and contribute to the popularization of the research results among the scientific community.

Evaluation of the autoref

The abstract faithfully reproduces the dissertation work. It is prepared in a volume of 71 standard pages and is composed of the mandatory components accurately representing the structure and content, contributions and publications of the dissertation.

Conclusion

The scientific work presented by lecturer Petya Krumova gives me reason to confidently state that she is a researcher with scientific interests and an innovative approach that contribute to a better presentation of the author's model for the introduction of ethical nursing care for persons placed in institutions. Through the development of the dissertation work and the publications presented, the doctoral student demonstrates knowledge of the subject and skills in the analysis of scientific theses.

In conclusion, the dissertation meets the requirements of the Development of Academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act , the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and and Regulations on Academic Staff Development at Medical University – Varna.

The work is presented in a finished and formed form. The content is well developed and illustrated.

All the listed merits of the dissertation work give me reason to positively evaluate the dissertation work on the topic: " Ethical aspects of the health care provided by nurses to elderly and older people " and to give my positive vote to award lecturer Petya Georgieva Krumova the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in Higher education area: 7. Healthcare and Sport, Professional field 7.4. Public health and scientific specialty: Health care management.

10th April 2024

Member of the Scientific Jury:

(Assoc. Prof. Silviya Filkova, PhD)

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