

The Effect of Applying an Early Warning Scoring System on Emergency Department Nurses' Perceived Role and Self-efficacy: Before-and-After Study

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ABSTRACT

Background: Early warning scores (EWS) is a widely used 'track and trigger' system in hospitals and Emergency Departments (EDs) that help early detection of patients' deterioration and severity of illness.

Aim:To Introduce a warning scoring system to ED nurses and to assess its impact on nurses' perceived role and self-efficacy.

Methods: An interventional, pre and post design was used. The study intervention included providing an introductory session (about 3 hours) about the EWS using the 'COMPASS' program, an interdisciplinary education program designed to enhance health care practitioners' understanding of emergency patients who are clinically deteriorated.

The data is collected from ED nurse pre and post the program and included: the demographic questionnaire, Self-efficacy scale (CNLSES), and Perceptions of nurse practitioner service tool.

Results: Nurses participated in this study showed moderate self-efficacy and perception prior to the education program. After considering the education program, nurses revealed a statistically significant improvement in all items related to self-efficacy and the majority of items related to perceived role. There was a strong positive correlation between self-efficacy and perceived role ($r=664$, $p<0.001$). In addition, a positive correlation was found between perceived role and age in which older nurses revealed higher perception towards their services age ($r=272$, $p=0.016$). There were no variations between male and female participants regarding both self-efficacy and perceived role.

Conclusion: The results gained from this study were consistent with previous studies undertook the effect of EWS in the EDs. There is positive effect of applying MEWS on the self-efficacy and perceived role of emergency department nurses. A number of recommendations are provided based on the study results.