

exemple, est-ce que les patients ont pratiqué les exercices respiratoire? Semblaient-ils moins tendus après l'opération? En d'autres termes, les objectifs du programme ont-ils été atteints? et surtout avaient-ils été clairement définis?

Il est commun d'entendre dire que le nursing a peu de contenu théorique. L'évaluation des effets d'une intervention semble être un élément de base dans la poursuite d'une action nursing rationnel.

RESPONSE TO "THREE PATIENT CONFERENCES"

JEAN GODARD*

There is a growing concern on the part of all social researchers, nurses included, that their work should contribute to the solution of practical problems. Accordingly, Ms Choi-Lao has attempted to provide for improved patient education both pre-operatively and post-operatively through the use of group discussion methods.

The problem as stated was "to find a different approach to that of traditional bedside teaching so that the needs of both the patient and the nurse might be better satisfied." Ms Choi-Lao attempts to utilize her prior knowledge of the values of group discussion in such an educational situation, but the question as put is difficult to answer. It is relatively non-specific and difficult to answer on the basis of knowledge alone, as it involves values as well, i.e. how is "better satisfied" to be defined and quantified? This paper, in fact, is a description of the vicissitudes found in an attempted introduction of change. It is difficult to see where it is more than a presentation of the values of group discussion in problem-solving for a very specific group of patients.

The author offers little description as to the planning done with the patients, if any; no attempt is offered in describing how the patients saw their needs or would attempt to solve their problems. The behavioral descriptions are non-specific, not quantified, and relate almost totally to the students and their evaluations — little validity is offered as to the value of group discussion in patient teaching of surgical patients. The statement is made, "special attention was paid to both content and method of presentation to ensure patient-centredness." Unfortunately, no specifics of description are offered the reader either as to patient participation in planning or implementation. We are told that the ward staff are consulted as to time of presentation, but no mention is made of consulting the patients. The lack of attention to patient care and consultation is

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epitomized by the neglect in the physical comfort offered to patient group members with varicosity problems.

In a review of the bibliography, I found little support in the literature for methods of change innovation, which is the essence of this report.

The design as a research paper appears non-specific, and methods of data collection and statistical verification are not described so that one cannot review how appropriate they are to the problems being studied; nor are the limitations of this study discussed by the author.

The statement on page 23 that such conferences satisfied simultaneously the needs of both patients and students leads one to ask "what needs? which students? and which patients?."

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