

KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF PROFESSIONAL NURSES WITH
REGARDS TO THE MONITORING OF PATIENTS ON INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS
IN SELECTED HOSPITALS OF VHEMBE DISTRICT; LIMPOPO PROVINCE

By

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DISSERTATION

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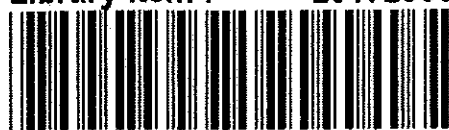
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ABSTRACT

Inappropriate administration of intravenous fluids (including blood/blood products administration) either the incorrect volume (too much or too little) or the incorrect type of fluid is a major cause of patient morbidity and mortality. It is the responsibility of registered professional nurses to make sure that information and understanding about intravenous fluids monitoring is shared amongst all health care professionals. The purpose of the study was to assess and described the knowledge and practices of registered professional nurses with regards to the monitoring of patients on IV fluids. A quantitative, descriptive and exploratory research method was used to explore and described the knowledge and practices of registered professional nurses with regards to the monitoring of patients on intravenous fluids who were admitted at selected hospitals in Vhembe District, Limpopo Province. Population comprised of two targets, professional nurses employed and practicing, and secondly the observation done by the researcher on patients who were admitted and having IV fluids therapy. Data was collected through self-administered questionnaires. Data was analysed by means of descriptive statistics for investigation and description by means of frequencies and percentages, using the chi square by the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Findings reflected that there were gaps in the knowledge and for the practices in monitoring intravenous fluid therapy by the registered professional nurses. Ethical considerations were adhered to. Recommendations were that Nursing Management should identify problem areas during evaluations, strengthen nursing rounds conduct in-service training and ensure the availability of policies, (SOPS) and procedure manuals.

Keywords: Registered professional nurse, intravenous fluids, fluids, knowledge, monitoring, practice, patient, observation, electrolytes, supervision, skilled nursing care, medical care.