

ROLE OF THE FORENSIC NURSE IN WELCOMING THE VICTIM IN THE EMERGENCY SERVICE

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: In recent years, forensic sciences (FC) have been gaining greater visibility, arousing the interest of the population and society in general, currently living in the era of science and technology, which has operated several changes in the daily life of populations. In the USA, forensic nursing is practiced in hospitals, courts, and in the community. Currently, the legislation requires forensic nurses to be the first health professional to assist a person in a situation of violence (Lynch, 2006). **Objective:** To describe the role of nurses in a forensic context. **METHOD:** Literature review. **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:** The literature points to the importance of addressing the forensic theme in nursing education to improve care for victims of violence and to encourage a new field of action and research. In Brazil, Forensic Nursing is an essential specialty in combating and welcoming victims of domestic violence, and was regulated by COFEN Resolution 556/2017. In 2022, the inclusion of nurses in the list of occupations of the Ministry of Labor (CBO) was approved, by COFEN Resolution 700/2022. Currently, nursing schools are faced with the challenge of preparing professionals capable of working in a volatile, versatile and changeable society, which imposes constant and demanding challenges on them. This reality directly reflects on the care provided in urgent and emergency health units. Nursing professionals are the first to come into contact with victims of violence, playing a crucial role in welcoming and initial qualified and humanized listening and in providing immediate care. Studies indicate that nurses have extensive care experience and also consider forensic education necessary for the clinical scenario, in compliance with ethical-legal principles. In addition to physical injuries to the victim, the consequences are psychosocial, such as psychiatric disorders and difficulties in resocializing the victim, generating social costs and impact on public health. **CONCLUSION:** From a perspective of global care for victims of violence, adequate knowledge in forensic sciences is needed. It is the responsibility of the nurse professional to recognize, collect and preserve evidence in the care of patients with complex psychosocial, psychological and physical needs. The nurse is the professional who has the appropriate technical and scientific competence and the ability to make immediate decisions to perform highly complex care. The role of the nurse in the care of victims of violence is notorious, a prepared and qualified nurse makes all the difference in the care of this situation.

Keywords: Forensic nursing. Criminal investigation. Violence.

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