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Nurses Make a Difference!  
**Transitional Care for  
Chronically Ill Patients**



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Institute of Nursing Research

## 6. A Cross-Sectional Study on Nursing Errors and Prevention Strategies among Nursing Students

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**Purpose:** This study aimed to determine the incidence of nursing errors among nursing students and explore strategies of clinical instructors in controlling nursing errors.

**Method:** A cross-sectional exploratory sequential design was used, with 332 students recruited from the third and fourth years of nursing school to investigate the incidence of nursing errors. The questionnaire “Nursing errors and related factors in nursing students” developed by Mohsenpour et al. (2020) was used to survey nursing students’ errors at the hospital. In addition, five clinical instructors who taught these students were interviewed to explore their strategies for decreasing students’ nursing errors. Data were examined quantitatively using descriptive statistics and qualitatively using content analysis.

**Results:** The most common nursing errors noted by students were not cleaning the thermometer while measuring body temperature (2.38 + 1.41) and providing care without the proper equipment (2.31 + 1.25). In contrast, the least common nursing error was giving oxygen to a patient with the incorrect equipment (1.20 + 0.61) and giving oxygen regardless of the patient’s illness (1.10 + 0.43). The study demonstrated significant differences between gender, year of education, career interest, and nursing errors ( $p < 0.05$ ). The primary reasons for these errors were a lack of clinical skills and pharmacological knowledge.

The results from qualitative analysis suggested that the clinical instructors’ strategies for dealing with these errors among students can be explained from different perspectives, including theoretical, practical, and clinical teaching environments.

**Conclusions:** According to the study findings, nursing errors can be caused by various factors. During clinical courses, all students committed at least one nursing error, most of which derived from a lack of clinical skills and pharmacological knowledge. In addition, clinical instructors must change their teaching approaches and integrate nursing error information into the curriculum. Technology in education is one of innovative approaches to minimize nursing errors.

**Keywords:** *Nursing Errors, Nursing Students, Patient Safety*