

# Perception of the Effects of Critical Nurses' Long Working Hours on Vigilance and Patients' Safety in Ramallah district



## Abstract

**Introduction:** Working for long hours favors increasing of daytime sleepiness and decreasing the state of nurse's vigilance, offering a greater risk of injuries and work accidents that affect the quality of nurse's performance and patient's safety (Seitz, 2016). Nurses who work in this setting may experience decreased ability to provide optimum care to patients. Thus, for enhancing and improving nurses' performance and patients' safety, there is a need to better understand fatigue and sleepiness and their association with each other as well as performance and patient's safety (Weinstein, 2016).

**Objective:** The study assesses the effects of long working hours of nurses in critical care units on vigilance and patients' safety in Ramallah city. The study was conducted at two major hospitals Palestine Medical Complex and Al-Istisharis Arab Hospital at the first quarter of 2018.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional design was used. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data. A total of 233 critical care nurses were included in the study, the response rate was 78.5%. The study assessed four domains: level of vigilance during the long working hours, Patient safety level during the long working hours, Patient Safety Frequency of Events Reported and Duties affected by vigilance and patients' safety.

**Results:** Study findings shows that the nurses reported a relatively high prevalence degree of long working hours (42.61%).opportunities for advancement in the profession. Nursing educators must pursue ways to encourage their graduate students to stay in the nursing profession, during the studies and the clinical practice and should, therefore, help students recognize nursing career opportunities and support them in planning their careers. On the other hand, age, gender, current position and place of work show no significance in relation with vigilance and patient safety. Finally, a significant difference between level of nurses vigilance were found between the two hospitals, and nurses at Palestine Medical Complex were eventually more alert.

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## Biography

Amal Ibrahim has completed her Master's degree in Health Management and Policies from Al-Quds University in Palestine in 2018. She is currently working as Middle East Coordinator for UCG conferences in London. Prior she Medical Referral Coordinator in An-Najahs National University Hospital. She has previously worked at the World Bank assisting administrative & management support to all external experts. Prior she was an Administrative Assistant in Saudi Arabia. She was awarded Employee of the year in 2012. At the time of this submission; her research was published on Unified Citation Journals Ltd. Registered in England & Wales, UK.. She is looking forward to contributing input from her experience to healthcare Management.

