

BASIC NURSING COMPETENCIES IN CARING FOR THE BARIATRIC PATIENT

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Purpose: The successful management of larger patients has become a priority for numerous hospitals and other health care organizations. To date, basic nursing competencies in caring for larger patients have not been identified. The aim of this study is to identify what nurses believe the term “basic nursing competency” refers to, to determine basic competencies in caring for bariatric patients, and to identify methods for teaching competencies.

Methods: The descriptive study employed use of 4-item survey tool was to collect qualitative data. The questionnaire was completed by a convenience sample of 22 registered nurses. Consent was implied by returning the completed tool.

Results: One hundred percent of respondents returned the survey (n = 22). 78% identified the term basic competency correctly as a system to develop a particular skill set (n = 20). The top three competencies were: safety (n = 20), equipment (n = 18), and assessment (n = 16). Other competencies described were: sensitivity training, etiologies of obesity, emotional issues, motivation. When asked to identify the best method to teach competencies, the subjects listed in order of frequency: video, train the trainer, self-study, and others.

Conclusion: Nurses are aware of the meaning of competencies, they recognize certain skills that they perceive as basic to caring for the bariatric patient. Creative interdisciplinary training methods are agreeable as alternatives to traditional classroom methods. Opportunities for hospital-based educators exist in the area of development of basic nursing competencies for care of larger and heavier patients.

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Basic Nursing Competencies in Caring for the Bariatric Patient

The successful management of larger patients has become a priority for numerous hospitals and other health care organizations. To date, basic nursing competencies in caring for larger patients have not been identified. I want to know what nurses believe these basic competencies are. Please help me learn more about this topic by completing this survey. Returning the completed survey implies consent for the information collected to be used in written or oral publication.

Thank you!

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1. Describe what is meant by the term basic nursing competency.
2. Please use the reverse side to list ten competencies that you believe would help in caring for larger patients.
3. In your opinion, what are the three most important competencies that you have listed.
4. Describe in your words how you believe these competencies should be taught.

TOP THREE COMPETENCIES

