

KNOWLEDGE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE NURSING TEAM IN THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC
CONHECIMENTO E ATUAÇÃO DA EQUIPE DE ENFERMAGEM NA PANDEMIA DA
COVID-19
CONOCIMIENTO Y DESEMPEÑO DEL EQUIPO DE ENFERMERÍA EN LA PANDEMIA DE
COVID-19

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ABSTRACT

Objective: to describe the knowledge and working conditions of nursing professionals in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in a public hospital. **Method:** this is a mixed, descriptive, cross-sectional study to be carried out with nursing professionals working in the sectors of assistance to patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in a public hospital. The data will be collected by using a checklist-type instrument and an interview. **Expected results:** this study is expected to make it possible to understand the current scenario lived by nursing professionals during the pandemic regarding their knowledge and working conditions in order to obtain possible improvements in the work environment and changes in national public policies.

Descritores: COVID-19; Pandemia; Profissionais de Enfermagem; Condições de Trabalho; Ambiente de Trabalho; Conhecimento.

Descriptors: COVID-19; Pandemic; Nursing Professionals; Working Conditions; Workplace; Knowledge.

Descriptores: COVID-19; Pandemia; Profesionales de Enfermería; Condiciones de Trabajo; Ambiente de Trabajo; Conocimiento.

RESUMO

Objetivo: descrever o conhecimento e condições de trabalho dos profissionais de Enfermagem no contexto da pandemia da COVID-19 em um hospital público. **Método:** trata-se de um estudo misto, descritivo, transversal, a ser realizado com os profissionais de Enfermagem atuantes nos setores de atendimento a pacientes internados com COVID-19 em um hospital público. Coletar-se-ão os dados por meio de instrumento tipo *checklist* e entrevista. **Resultados esperados:** espera-se que este estudo possibilite compreender o cenário atual que os profissionais de Enfermagem vivenciam

durante a pandemia quanto ao seu conhecimento e condições de trabalho para o alcance de possíveis melhorias no ambiente laboral e transformações nas políticas públicas nacionais.

Descritores: COVID-19; Pandemia; Profissionais de Enfermagem; Condições de Trabalho; Ambiente de Trabalho; Conhecimento.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: describir los conocimientos y las condiciones laborales de los profesionales de enfermería en el contexto de la pandemia de COVID-19 en un hospital público. **Método:** se trata de un estudio mixto, descriptivo, transversal, para ser realizado con profesionales de enfermería que laboran en los sectores de atención a pacientes ingresados por COVID-19 en un hospital público. Los datos se recopilarán utilizando una lista de verificación y un instrumento tipo entrevista. **Resultados esperados:** se espera que este estudio permita comprender el escenario actual que viven los profesionales de enfermería durante la pandemia en cuanto a sus conocimientos y condiciones laborales para lograr posibles mejoras en el clima laboral y cambios en las políticas públicas nacionales.

Descriptores: COVID-19; Pandemia; Profesionales de enfermería; Condiciones de trabajo; Ambiente de trabajo; Conocimiento

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Several cases of pneumonia due to unknown causes are known to have appeared in December 2019 in the city of Wuhan, province of Hubei, China.¹ In addition, on January 7th, 2020, China isolated a new coronavirus and presented data on the virus genome to the international community.²⁻³ From the analysis of the virus isolated genetic material, it was found that it consists of a new betacoronavirus, initially called 2019-nCoV by the World Health Organization (WHO), which is now called SARS-CoV-2 (*Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus*).¹⁻²

The disease spread rapidly throughout the Chinese territory and subsequently patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 were identified in other countries, mainly in Europe (with Italy and Spain as epicenters), in the United States, Canada and Brazil.¹ The SARS-CoV-2 nomenclature was then replaced by COVID-19, which means *CO*rona *VI*rus *D*isease, while "19" refers to the year 2019 when the virus was discovered.⁴

In view of this, on January 30th, 2020, the WHO declared that the epidemic of the disease caused by the new coronavirus (COVID-19) is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), the highest level of alert of the organization as defined in the International Health Regulations. On March 11th, 2020, the COVID-19 was recognized as a pandemic by the WHO.¹

The numbers related to the COVID-19 pandemic are becoming increasingly alarming, with global dimensions. 6,416,828 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed worldwide, with 382,867 deaths by June 4th, 2020, and 1,080,051 being the number of people who were infected and recovered in the Americas.¹

The transmissibility of the COVID-19 is high and the growth of this pandemic has significantly affected the entire health system in most countries;⁵⁻⁶ therefore, there is still the potential to infect large proportions of the world's population, with enough patients with severe symptoms to overload health systems.⁵

In Brazil, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the structural fragilities and bottlenecks of the National Health System are exposed, particularly the lack or unequal distribution of health professionals and of medium and high complexity health-care infrastructure in the territory, as well as the limited capacity to produce and conduct diagnostic tests. The strengths of the largest public and universal health system in the world also come to light, playing a predominant role in monitoring and in health care, as well as in the planning and articulation of actions to face the pandemic.⁷

In this scenario where many people are exposed to the contamination by this virus, health professionals stand out, particularly those in nursing for being in direct care of patients with COVID-19, getting infected and consequently registering a high number of deaths among themselves. Brazil is the country where most nursing professionals die because of the pandemic, and according to data from the Federal Nursing Council, 143 nurses, technicians and assistants died because of COVID-19, with 16,064 confirmed cases of the disease.⁸

The purpose of this study, in view of this scenario and in order to gain some understanding on the COVID-19 situation in public hospitals, is to answer the following guiding question: "What is the knowledge and performance of nursing professionals in face of the COVID-19 pandemic in a public hospital in Rondonópolis/MT?".

OBJECTIVE

To describe the knowledge and working conditions of nursing professionals in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in a public hospital.

METHOD

This is a study with a mixed, descriptive, transversal method. It is reported that the technique of combining different methods appeared in the 1960s amongst anthropologists and sociologists, and in the late 1970s the term "triangulation" appeared as a combination of methodologies in the study of the same phenomenon in order to reduce the inherent tendency to use a particular method. This kind of investigation is said to have had a discrete growth in the 1980s, with a considerable development of a mixed approach in the field of research at the end of the 1990s. In the last 20 years, the idea of mixed methodology has been materialized as a new scientific field.⁹⁻¹⁰

It is observed that there are several procedures to make a methodological analysis, among which the mixed survey, which can be effective when dealing with social issues due to the analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, associating complex results with subjective issues of a social nature. Mixed surveys are explained as an association of quantitative and qualitative methods that helps the researcher to understand the object to be analyzed both in a numerical and in a reflective manner.¹¹ In addition, the study will be descriptive and transversal in order to be able to respond more effectively to the outlined objective.

The survey will be developed with all nursing professionals working in the sectors of health care for patients hospitalized with the coronavirus, a priori the sectors of General Intensive Care Unit, Surgical Center and Clinical Oncology.

The inclusion criterion will be considered for the professionals who are duly hired by the hospital to be working in the selected units dealing with the COVID-19, as well as to consent to participate in the study on a voluntary basis by signing the Free and Informed Consent Term (TCLE). Professionals on leave of absence for health reasons, vacation or other forms will be excluded after three attempts of contact during data collection.

The data will be collected through the application of a checklist-type structured questionnaire and a semi-structured interview conducted in person by the researchers during the Institution staff's day and night shifts. It is announced that a moment for the survey will be scheduled in advance, as long as it does not interfere with the work routine. The signature of the TCLE will be requested to formalize the acceptance to participate. The researchers will assume the commitment to preserve the confidentiality of the participants' identities.

The data obtained will be organized into a statistical program and then analyzed by means of descriptive statistics, arranged in absolute and relative frequencies and presented in the form of tables and graphs. For qualitative data, a thematic analysis will be used, a type of investigation in which the researcher searches for patterns in meanings, codifying excerpts of the participants' statements in order to issue a report on those patterns which are then called themes.¹² This structure is present in the qualitative data analysis technique.

This survey will obey the ethical principles established in Resolution 466/12 of the National Health Council,¹³ the study having been submitted to the Committee of Ethics and Research in Human Beings of the Federal University of Rondonópolis and approved under no. CAAE 33496120.1.0000.8088.

EXPECTED RESULTS

It is believed that this study has the potential to facilitate the understanding of the current scenario experienced by the nursing professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic regarding their knowledge and working conditions in order to accomplish possible improvements in the work environment as well as changes in national public policies.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Nothing to declare.

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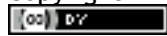
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