

# Nursing in Critical Care

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Critical care nursing comprises a wide spectrum of duties. Besides direct hands-on care, a critical care nurse also performs an important role to be a patients' advocacy supporting and respecting the basic rights of critically ill patients, conducting research to support evidence-based nursing practice, and promoting critical care nursing professional development (The European Federation of Critical Care Nursing associations, 2013). The fulfillment of these roles is associated with safe and effective care which enhances patient outcomes (Lakanmaa, Suominen, Ritmala-Castrén, Vahlberg, & Leino-Kilpi, 2015). The topics of papers included in this issue are focusing on protecting patients' rights, synthesizing knowledge from research to inform practice, monitoring nursing practice, and developing the role of nurse consultant with examples to illustrate how critical care nurses fulfill their roles.

In this issue, four papers were included. The first paper delineated the updated Position Statement of the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses on the Rights of Critically Ill Patients. Recognizing the rights of critically ill patients can inform various stakeholders in critical care about optimal care for patients and assist in shared decision-making between healthcare professionals and patients. This statement is expected to increase the awareness of various stakeholders in critical care about the rights of critically ill patients. The second paper is a systematic review that synthesized the evidence of interventions to address moral distress in critical care nurses. Seven papers were included, and workshop was found to be the most common interventions and

with large effect size in reducing moral distress among ICU nurses. However, the low quality and high risk of bias in most of the included studies should be noticed when generalizing the findings. Infection control is a priority in the dialysis unit due to the vulnerable patients and the sharing of the dialysis machine. To prevent infection, health-care professionals in the dialysis unit are required to strictly follow the infection control measures. However, a study in Egypt showed that nurses did not comply well with the infection control measures, suggesting the urgent need for actions to improve their compliance to prevent infection. The last paper is experience sharing. The author shared her experience of being a nurse consultant in Hong Kong and how her role influence patient care as well as identified barriers to fulfilling her role. The experience of Hong Kong may provide an exemplar for other areas to develop their nurse consultant roles.

## References

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