



How staff shortage and nursing workload affects patient safety

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Patient Safety & Quality Improvement

Introduction

- The shortage of nurses is a constantly growing phenomenon with many negative consequences.
- The heavy workload of nurses as a result of the staff shortage is a problem that affects the functioning of health systems worldwide.
- Promoting patient safety is one of the most important goals and challenges of healthcare systems

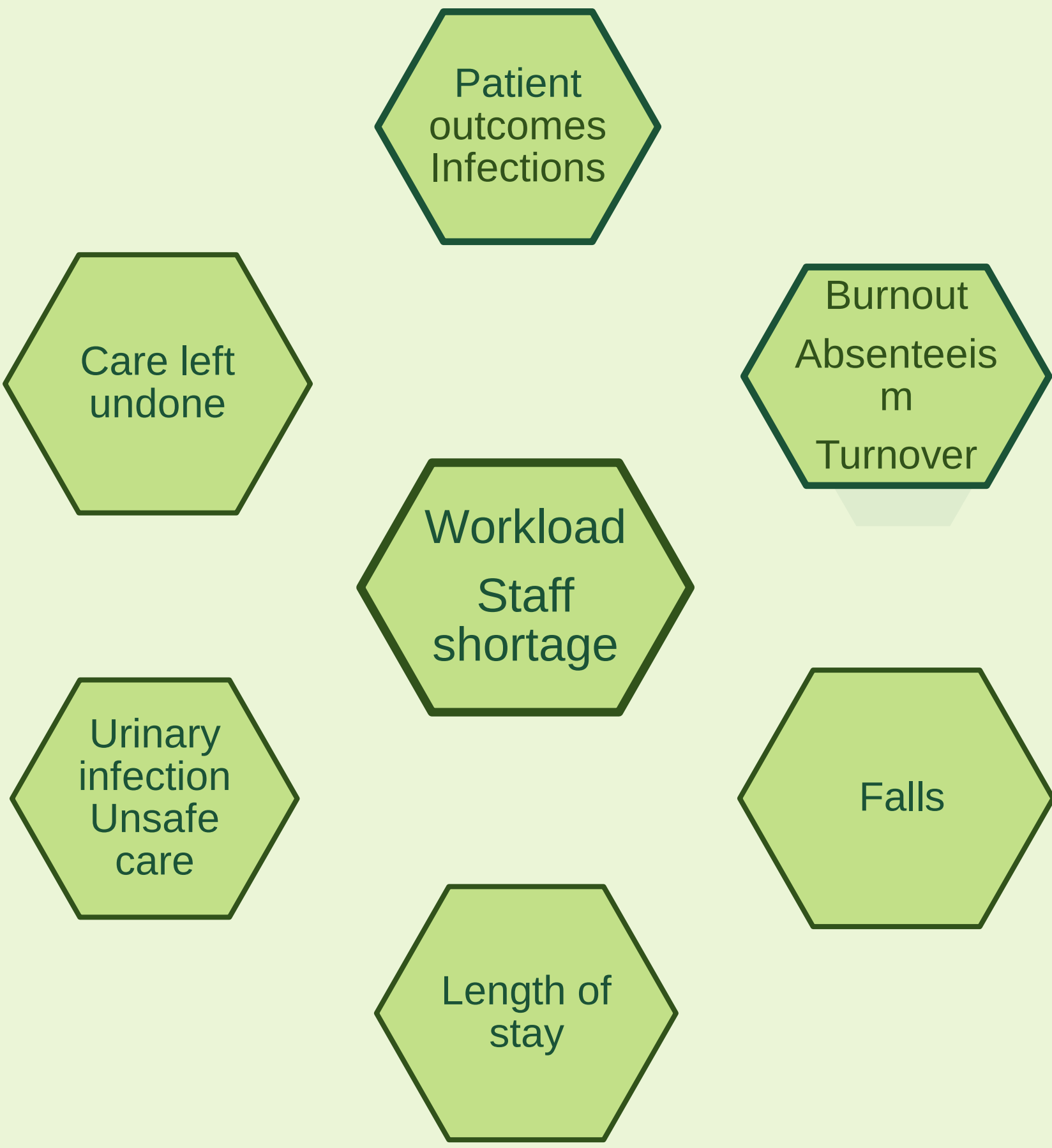
Aim

- The relationship between nursing workload and patient safety-suggestions

Method

- Literature Review
- Databases(Pubmed, Google scholar)
- Publication dates:2010-2022
- Qualitative and Quantitative studies
- Language: English, Greek, German

Results



Fatigue, work environment, emotional exhaustion, depersonalisation and personal accomplishment were predictors for overall patient safety among critical care nurses(Al Mamari et al, 2020)

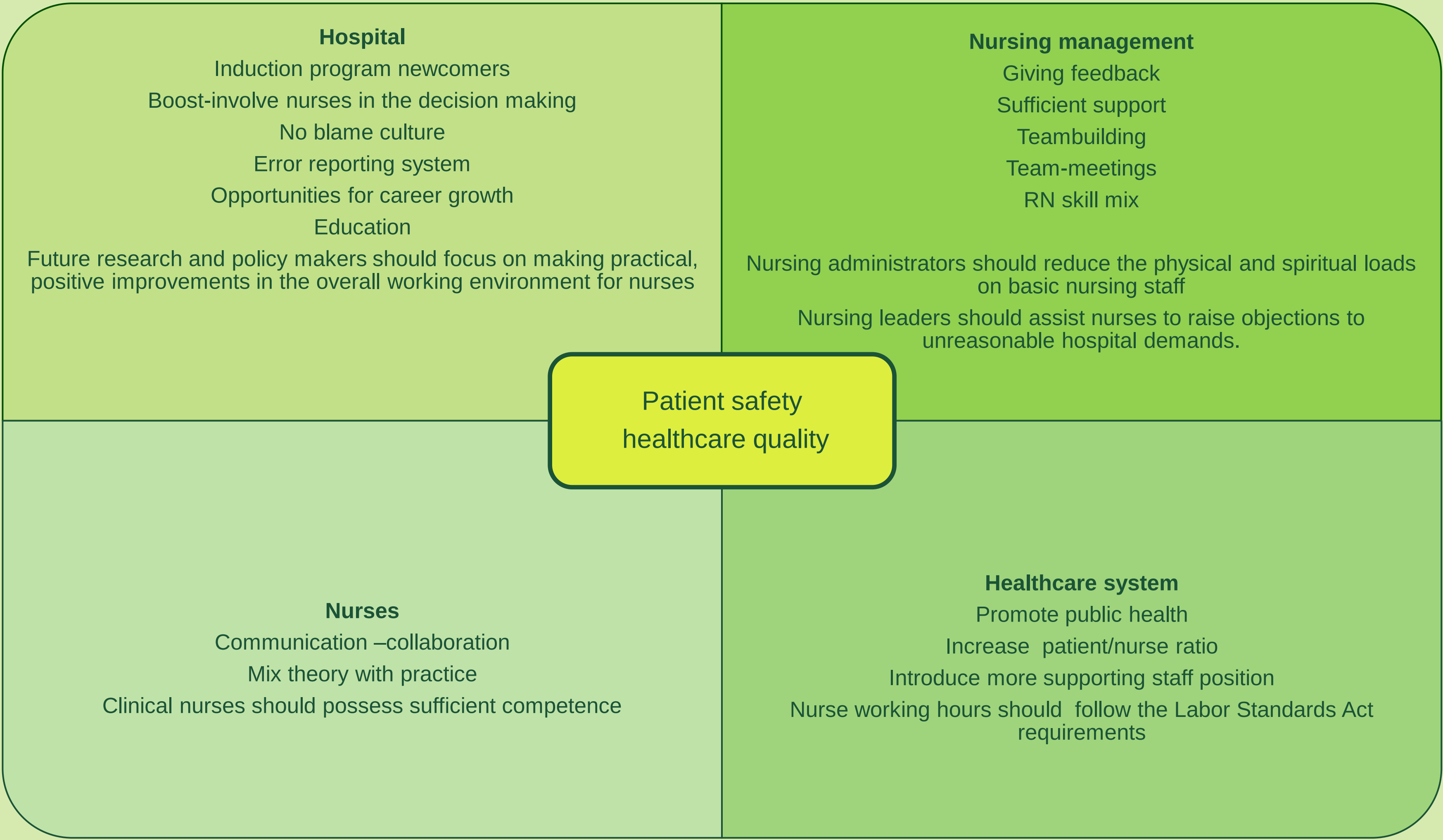
Effective nurse staffing levels, nurse education levels, and a positive work environment are factors which are known to impact on patient safety outcomes (Kirwan et al, 2013)

Increases in the number of patients assigned to each nursing team lead to increased rates of bed-related falls, central line-associated bloodstream infections, nursing staff turnover, and absenteeism(de Magalhães et al, 2013)

Characteristics of work environment: collaborative relationships; positively perceived communication between nurses and physicians was associated with fewer patient falls and lower rates of pressure ulcers, nurse education; higher levels of education were related to fewer patient falls and nursing experience lower levels of experience were related to more patient falls and higher rates of pressure ulcers (Stalpers et al, 2015)

Conclusions

- The improvement of the working environment is necessary
- Further focus on the issue is required to improve patient safety
- New proposals for a solution to the problem are needed
- Adequate staffing promotes a safer care environment
- Increased workload had an impact on quality of care safety
- Burnout Syndrome leads to greater vulnerability



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