

TURUN YLIOPISTON JULKAISUJA
ANNALES UNIVERSITATIS TURKUENSIS

SARJA — SER.D

MEDICA — ODONTOLOGICA

49

GOOD NURSING CARE
On what basis?

By

HELENA LEINO-KILPI

TURUN YLIOPISTO

Turku 1990

9. SUMMARY

This study is concerned to develop a theoretical concept apparatus for the description of good nursing care. To a certain extent it succeeds in doing this: on the basis of the empirical data, six relevant categories are formed and their relationships analysed, and the relationships between nurse and patient are described. The six main categories are: actor, characteristics of the actor, task-oriented and human-oriented activities, modes of activity, preconditions, and aims of nursing. Within each of these, several subcategories and properties are identified.

The comparisons of these categories suggest that the views of professional nurses and nurse educators in Finland on good nursing care tend to revolve around the nurse herself: good nursing care is defined largely in terms of doing something to or on behalf of the patient. Seven different types of relationship between nurse and patient are distinguished: protection, caring, giving advice, involvement, common understanding of the task, advocacy, and patient as an independent actor — nurse as a resource. The latter two are not directly visible in the empirical data.

The study represents basic rather than applied research, although its ultimate goal is a practical one: that is, to develop nursing practice. The results provide a theoretical basis for a) the evaluation of the quality of nursing care and b) the evaluation of nursing education. As a whole this basis forms a new theoretical construct, although in individual categories — notably in the characteristics of the actor and in task-oriented activities — there are certain similarities with the existing knowledge.

Three main areas are singled out for further research: 1) the development of the concept apparatus by means of empirical testing and analysis of the views of patients; 2) concept analysis of the main terms used in the empirical data; and 3) the development of nursing education, particularly through the integration of theory and practice.