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Decision making in Greek and English registered nurses in coronary care units

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Abstract

Clinical decision-making is an integral component of the role of the professional nurse.

The aim of the study was to identify the quality of decision making of Greek and English coronary care nurses during the acute and recovery phases post-myocardial infarction (MI), and determine factors that best predict clinical decision-making in these two discrete groups of nurses.

By identifying best practice from standard textbooks and expert practitioners, Clinical Decision-Making cards were developed and employed to explore nurse decision-making. A questionnaire (influencing factor questionnaireâ€™ IFQ) was also administered to determine which factors predicted quality nurse decision-making in the acute and recovery phase of post-MI patient care.

The results showed that nurses in England made better quality clinical decisions in the recovery phase of MI than the Greek counterparts ($p < 0.001$). Variables were identified which best-predicted decision-making. Interestingly, the main finding of this study was that English nurses had greater autonomy in the recovery phase and therefore made more clinical decisions concerning the patient psychosocial recovery than Greek nurses. Nurses perceived clinical experience as the strongest factor influencing decision-making.



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Keywords

Decision-making; Nurses; Coronary care; Greece; England

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