

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

NURSES' KNOWLEDGE ON PRESSURE ULCER
CARE AND ITS PRACTICE IN INTENSIVE CARE
UNIT AT A PUBLIC HOSPITAL

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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

We declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of our own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENT	PAGE
TITLE PAGE	i
AUTHOR'S DECLARATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY	x
ABSTRACT	xi
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	
1.0 Background of the Research	1
1.1 Statement of Problem	2
1.2 Research Objectives	3
1.2.1 General Objective	3
1.2.2 Specific Objective	3
1.3 Research Questions	3
1.4 Significant of Study	4
1.4.1 Patient	4
1.4.2 Nurses	4
1.4.3 Organization	5
1.5 Operational Definition	6
1.5.1 Nurses	6
1.5.2 Knowledge	6
1.5.3 Practice	6
1.5.4 Pressure Ulcer	7
1.5.5 Intensive Care Unit (ICU)	7

ABSTRACT

Background: Regardless of excess information on pressure ulcers' care, they remain a significant problem in a hospital. The urgency to reduce the prevalence of pressure ulcers has been well documented. The reasons for this lack of improvement have been explored, but the picture remains unclear. While some studies have suggested that nurses have the appropriate knowledge to prevent pressure ulcers developing but it seems that nurses did not implement their knowledge into practice, others suggest that nurses' knowledge of care strategies is insufficient. In Malaysia, the incidence of pressure ulcers is considered high especially in Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Based on a study in Selayang hospital, Malaysia showed that a prevalence of pressure ulcer considered high, it was 2.05% - 4.05% respectively.

Objectives: To determine nurses' knowledge on pressure ulcer care and its practice in Intensive Care Unit Ward at Hospital Sungai Buloh, Selangor.

Method: A cross-sectional descriptive design was carried out whereby a self-report survey of nurses' knowledge and practice on pressure ulcer care was distributed to 120 registered nurses in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at a Public Hospital.

Result: The results of this study determine that most of the nurses in the ICU have moderate level of knowledge and practice on pressure ulcer care with a percentage of 66.63% and 71.97% respectively. Besides, the results also show that there is no association between nurses knowledge and practice on pressure ulcer care [X^2 (2, N=103) =9.034, p=.06].

Conclusion: This study determined nurses' level of knowledge and practice on pressure ulcer care. The results of this study propose that the knowledge and practice of participants is moderate and thus it could be improved. It is of particular concern that methods known to be detrimental were in common use. Thus, the researchers suggest that nurses practiced on pressure ulcer care should using evidence based practice that should be provided by organization of the hospital or country such as Braden Scale which is used as standard guidelines. In addition, the researchers suggest that nurses can update their knowledge through continuous nursing education regarding pressure ulcer care.

Key words: nurses, knowledge, practice, pressure ulcer, intensive care unit.