

Interpersonal communication style towards hospitalized seniors - study report

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Introduction

Interpersonal relationships that occur during the care process should take into account the subjectivity of the older person, and care should be individualized. The style of interpersonal communication between a nurse and an older patient may have a crucial impact on the course of hospitalization and therapy. It is therefore worth examining the communication styles applied in everyday nursing practice towards patients.

Aim

The aim of the presented study was to determine which communication style is used in interactions with older patients. The study also examined to establish whether there is a relationship between the nurse's communication style (partnership-oriented or non-partnership-oriented) and the patient's age, level of care needs, and mental capacity.

Material and Methods

The study was conducted in 2025 in hospital wards in the Lubusz Voivodeship. The research method was observation of the communication styles used by nurses during their interactions and daily care activities with hospitalized patients. A self-designed observation sheet was used for data collection.

Conclusion

During care activities, nurses most frequently use a non-partnership egocentric communication style.

The non-partnership egocentric style is applied in relation to patients who are highly dependent on nursing care (third level of care categorization).

The partnership style is used with patients requiring the least amount of care (first and second level of care categorization) during medical procedures.

Nurses do not apply the non-partnership allocentric style during care and medical procedures.

The findings indicate the need to expand the observational method to a broader group of nurses and patients.