

ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis deals with current pharmacotherapeutic care with a focus on activities that nurses take part in. The aim was to collect and evaluate the views and experiences of selected nurses regarding their role in pharmacotherapy team, particularly what activities they perform in such team and how their pharmacotherapy teams work in general. SWOT analysis was then used firstly to evaluate the current role of nurses and secondly to suggest a way of implementation of possible extension of nurses' competencies in pharmacotherapy.

In order to collect the required data, semi-structured interviews were conducted. These were recorded, so they could be easily processed afterwards. During transcription of the interviews into written text, all the collected data was briefly analysed. The data was further analysed using the open coding method, when three main categories with specific subcategories and subcodes were identified.

All the selected men and women, which were asked for cooperation, are people working as a nurse without supervision and mentoring. Based on their career history all of them were expected to have a more specific experience with the issue. The respondents were mainly nurses with long-term working experience, often working in middle or senior management. When selecting the future respondents, their professional background and their workplace was taken into account, as the aim was to collect experience from different clinical departments.

The interviewed nurses describe the activities that they perform regarding the pharmacotherapeutic care. They also mention approaches they met with during their career and which of them work and which do not. The difference between the workplaces and the personal approaches of each nurse regarding the issue is also observed. Regarding the nurse's competencies there is plenty of space for change. The fact the nurse could be allowed to prescribe the medicaments for patients in future like in other EU countries is discussed. Within the carried-out SWOT analysis used to evaluate the nurse's role the education system, legislation and lack of employees were found to be the current weaknesses and threats for potential change of nurses' competencies.

This thesis provides just a brief look into the issue and tries to point out that it is necessary to fix the weaknesses and create the threats reduction plan first in case the nurses' competencies should be extended. Possible solution could be to involve more main groups into the pharmacotherapeutic investigation, not only nurses, but also doctors, pharmacists and patients.

keywords: nurse, competence, medicine, prescription, administration of medicinal products, the role of the nurse