
History of Nursing

1890-1960 vs. now

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Nursing Educator Mary Caldwater Jones addressing the Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses - 1900



“You who went into and graduated from training schools already thoroughly organized, can have but little idea of what the first pupils in our schools went through. They were the pioneers who cleared the ground and sowed the seed from which we all profit now (“Becoming a nurse”, 2000).”

Introduction

- In the early-to-mid 20th century, nursing was experiencing many changes
- In the United States and throughout the world, events like WWI and WWII, and continuous technological advancements would impact professional nursing from 1890-1960 (Hood, 2022, pg. 52-54).
- According to Hood (2022), during this time period concepts including state registration, standardized procedures, and the nursing process were key concepts that were developed during this time period (pg. 49-53).

Guidelines for professional registration

- According to Hood, (2022), “The proliferation of nursing programs between 1880 and 1900 resulted in widespread variances in nursing education quality” (Pg 49).
- “In 1893, the School of Medicine at Harvard University (Washington, D.C.) established the first nursing diploma program within a university setting” (Hood, Pg 49).
- “North Carolina led the efforts in state registration of nurses in 1903 by establishing guidelines for professional registration. Requirements included graduation from an established diploma nursing school” (Hood, Pg 51).
- According to Benefiel, (2011), “In 1938, New York passed the first mandatory nurse licensure legislation, although it was not enacted until 1947 because of the shortage of nurses in World War II” (Pg 16).
- According to Hood, (2022), “To renew initial registration, nurses were given a 3-year grace period to practice, then were required to take a licensing examination that emphasized dietetics, client comfort, skilled handling of clients and general management” (Pg 51).
- According to Hood, (2022), “The NLN Committee on Testing managed the nursing license examination process, including the test construction and administration in 1944. In 1955, the ANA assumed control over nursing licensure test administration” (Pg 54).

Correlating these concept to the nursing profession today, a registered nurse must attend an accredited institution, achieve satisfactory educational requirements and pass the NCLEX examination to receive a registered nurses licensure (Gaines, 2022).

Standardized Procedures

- According to Hood, (2022), “In the 1930s, nurses identified the need to standardize nursing procedures to improve client care and to strengthen education” (pg.53).
- The Nursing Education Committee (NEC) was formed to develop practices for procedures.
- In the 1940’s, model procedures contained a set of steps and rationales for key principles, which the nurses are able to adjust to meet the needs of their local conditions (Hood, pg. 53).
- “Procedures developed by the NEC included the following; hand hygiene, cleanliness of nursing uniforms, isolation procedures, sterile dressings, bedsore prevention, bedpan use, oral care, temperature taking, urine testing, and all routes of medication administration” (Hood, pg. 53).
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>
- The Overall goal for the procedures was for the training hospitals to develop guidelines for test questions, but that did not happen due to World War II. (Hood, pg. 53).
- “Results of this reveal the importance of having key underlying scientific principles to guide professional nursing practice in order to provide optimal nursing care” (Hood, pg. 53).

Beginning of the Nursing Process

- According to Hood (2022), in the mid-1950's, nursing began to be impacted by the scientific method and technological advancements (pg. 51).
- By 1958, Ida Jean Orlando had developed a nursing process as a guide for the systematic approach to nursing care (Toney-Butler & Thayer, 2022).
 - Hood (2022), states that the original nursing process had 4 steps - Assessment, Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation (pg. 53).
- Hood (2022) states that by the 1970's, the nursing process had become an integral part of the nursing scope of practice and the nursing professional standards (pg. 198).
- From information from Taylor, Lynn, and Bartlett (2019), today the nursing process is a 5-step process (Assessment, Diagnosis, Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation), that is taught in the first basics of nursing education, and is the basis for the professional and personal aspects of nursing (pg. 19).

Conclusion

- This time frame shaped the way we do procedures to this day.
- Provided the foundation for guidelines for the nursing licensure process.

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