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Home Care Nursing on Long-Term Illness Management in the French Healthcare System

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Abstract. This study explores the role of home care nurses in managing long-term illnesses (L-TI) within the French healthcare system, utilizing data from the SNDS. Focused on data from 2022, it categorizes nursing actions into medical procedures, care procedures, and nursing processes, revealing significant involvement in patient care. The findings highlight the crucial, evolving role of home care nurses in addressing the complex needs of millions suffering from chronic conditions like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in France.

Keywords. Nursing care practices, long-term illness, SNDS, data reuse

1. Introduction

Long-term illness (L-TI) in the French healthcare system includes diseases that are severe or chronic and require extended treatment [1]. Covering a broad range of chronic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Managing L-TI involves early diagnosis, integrated care, financial support, and a commitment to improving patients' quality of life [2]. Recognizing diseases as L-TI entitles patients to full reimbursement for related medical expenses, reducing their financial burden and ensuring access to necessary treatments and services. Home care nurses play a crucial role in this system, providing personalized, ongoing care [3]. They administer medications, manage wound care, educate patients, and monitor disease progression. With the rising prevalence of L-TI, the role of home care nurses is becoming increasingly vital. This study aims to describe the activities of these nurses in managing L-TI within the French healthcare system.

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2. Methods

This retrospective study used data from the SNDS (French National Health Data System) to examine actions by home care nurses from January to December 2022 for all patients, focusing specifically on those related to long-term illnesses (L-TI). Actions were categorized into nursing medical procedures (NMP), prescribed by physicians, nursing care procedures (NCP), involving hygiene care, and nursing processes (NP), which cover assessing patient needs, establishing diagnoses, setting care objectives, implementing actions, and evaluating outcomes.

3. Results

In 2022, a total of 15,826,180 patients were identified with at least one L-TI in France. Simultaneity, 17,098,901 patients received 719,541,849 home nursing care during the same year. L-TI care nursing procedures account for 76% of all procedures, representing 546,876,818 procedures for 4,203,305 patients. Within this population, men represented 47.18% of the patients, and the median age (Q1;Q3) was 71 [59;80] years. The five most common L-TI were diabetes 1 & 2 (21.17%), tumors and malignant diseases (18.42%), severe heart failures, severe heart rhythm disorders, severe heart valve diseases, severe congenital heart defects (10.07%), coronary diseases (9.20%), and long-term psychiatric conditions (650,180 patients, 8.18%). 28.31% of the patients had more than one L-TI. The patients received 546,876,818 nursing care procedures, including NMP (78.10%), NCP (21.77%), and NP (0.13%). Patients with the 5 most common L-TI received 450,683,169 nursing procedures, accounting for 62.67% of these procedures.

4. Conclusions

The data presented shed light on the intricate interplay between chronic conditions, patient-centered care, and the evolving healthcare milieu. Moreover, the landscape of nursing practice has been evolving in France since 2019, embracing advanced practice roles that extend the scope of nursing responsibilities [4].

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