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Universal nursing sensitive indicators in China: A literature review

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Tursing Sensitive Indicators (NSI), are the basic elements for scientifically and effectively evaluating and improving the quality of care and play a guiding role in nursing management. In recent years, based on the experience of foreign NSI constructed, the construction of China's localized NSI has been initially explored. The objective of this study is to summarize and analyze the universal NSI constructed in China and provide reference for the development and improvement of the national NSI. The Delphi method, in conjunction with literature review or evidence-based methods, is widely used to construct the indicators, theoretically based on the Donabedian's "structure-process-outcome" model. The sets of universal NSI having been constructed in China mainly include 13 to 20 indicators. Among these indicators, the following nine indicators are widely used: Nurse-to-patient ratio, nursing staff qualification ratio, patient identification accuracy, the implementation rate of grading nursing, the incidence of pressure ulcer, the incidence of falls, the incidence of medication error, patient satisfaction and nurse satisfaction. The sets of indicators, however, differ greatly in the number and content, so that they have no universality and popularity across the country. In addition, the definition of some indicators is inconsistent or uncertain, and the calculation formulas and data collection methods are not unified, resulting in the poor operability and practicability. The universal NSI in China are still immature and the research of assessing nursing quality is still in the preliminary exploration period. Recommendations based on the analysis of the literatures include conducting in-depth and extensive research to revise and improve NSI, building the national database of nursing quality indicators of China, selecting certain pilot hospital to practice and finally extending the indicators nationwide.

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