Division for Critical Care Nursing

Background

In 2015, Germany had a capacity of over 27,489 beds on intensive care units. The case number was 2.1 million, with a noticeable upward trend (1). Apart from a demographic change and the accompanying multimorbidity of the patients, the developments in the healthcare system in Germany show a lack of trainees on (intensive) care units. Especially intensive medical care for critically ill people is characterized by a high degree of complexity. Within the interdisciplinary and highly technology-oriented settings, a high degree of professionalism is required of the caregivers. The division calls for a stronger focus on nursing science in the area of intensive care. When the division was set up, the following topic areas were defined (see Fig. 1). Currently the Workgroup focuses mainly on the phenomenon of geriatric patients on intensive care units, as well as delirium and pain management.

Current project

The division is currently dealing with the „AACN Synergy Model For Patient Care - Synergy For Clinical Excellence“ (AACN - American Association of Critical-Care Nurses) as a theoretical frame of reference for intensive care (2).

Within the AACN model, patient characteristics and needs are identified, and the skills and capabilities of the caregivers are documented to ensure adequate nursing care for the patient (3).

The following graphic demonstrates the model:

Fig. 1 adapted Weidner (2011)

Fig. 2: based on Hardin & Kaplow, 2017.

Participants

The division regards itself as a forum to work together across borders for the future organisation of nursing care for critically ill patients. New members are welcome!

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Literature: