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Article

The standardized language for the recognition of a profession

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Abstract.

"The land that needs heroes is unfortunate" wrote, in Life of Galileo, the poet and playwright Bertolt Brecht, a phrase that fits perfectly with the rhetoric that, for almost a year now, seems to be unleashed every time that at the center of the public debate are the workers of the health system. A rhetoric of heroism, devious and fetishistic, whose role is to transform the work of thousands of male and female workers into a pure "sense of duty", into a due act, into "kindness and good heart" lent to the epidemic crisis. A rhetoric well exposed by the contribution that we publish below, a contribution written by Monia Minorenti, researcher and nurse of the Central Reanimation Department of the Umberto Primo Polyclinic (now, since March, Covid-19 Reanimation). Here, the author not only reports the criticisms of a profession that rightly claims its full recognition, but also captures the emergence of two distinct classes of workers: on the one hand, doctors, whose work is fully traceable and economically quantifiable, on the other hand, nurses and other health care support figures, whose roles are not fully recognized and adequately paid.

Keywords: standardized language, nursing intervention, nursing diagnosis, standardized nursing terminology

Since the beginning of the pandemic, nurses have been increasingly in the spotlight, this time to praise their professionalism and commitment in the fight against the Coronavirus.
The front pages of the newspapers always leave ample space for titles of thanks and respect for the nursing profession, but almost a year after the beginning of what would have become a pandemic last March, one wonders if beyond the the title of "heroes" has been achieved full awareness of the real value of the profession.

Today more than ever the shortcomings in health care due to the continuous cuts, which began before the pandemic, are increasingly clear. In a state of general inadequacy of health structures and services, fundamental figures such as health workers found themselves having to make up for various shortcomings, with an inevitable increase in workload and a consequent increase in stress. Nursing cannot be reduced to the simple execution of therapeutic acts, forgetting the planning, evaluation and organization of nursing care.

Nurses and support staff should ensure quality care and staffing needs are a central element in health planning. Nursing requires time, attention, precision and collaboration. The activities carried out during assistance are often not reported, even if time-consuming, are not tracked and the work done is less shown to health policies.

The standardized language is recognized as the development key of Nursing for the recognition of the nursing burden in health care activities, currently underestimated for the health system.

The questions that the nursing profession should ask are: Why do nurses find it difficult to document their practice? Good care makes a difference, but exactly how is it recognized?

The nurse does not have a common language to describe what he does and in fact if he is unable to describe it he cannot even control it, apply it, teach it and make it scientifically interesting.

Using a standardized language would allow better communication between nurses and all other healthcare professionals, greater visibility and traceability of the assistance provided, better data collection to evaluate both the outcomes of care and adherence to standards of care, in order to guarantee a general improvement in performance (Marucci et al., 2015)

Standardizing a language does not mean standardizing the practice, in which case clinical judgment would fail. Standardizing a language is a necessity that must arise from the profession itself.

The literature argues that nurses prefer to use verbal communication, so that nursing work will remain invisible (Ausili D, 2013).

Unfortunately, nurses still today perceive the importance of documentation almost exclusively in defense of a possible dispute rather than for patient care (Sansoni et al., 2010).

In every scientific field, the language used represents disciplinary knowledge and its development is therefore representative of the advancement of a discipline and a profession.

Nursing, as a science, needs a unique language to make everyone understand what is demonstrated and implemented in daily practice: this is fundamental in order to increase the diffusion of concepts, of new knowledge, making the visible figure clear and visible. of the nurse.

It is clear that a nursing language already exists today but it remains to understand how it is spread and transmitted. The language used daily to document nursing care appears mostly incomplete with consequent risks both for the safety of patients and for the protection of healthcare professionals (Saranto et al., 2009; D'Agostino et al., 2012).

At present, in Italy and in many other countries the health information contents, in particular those relating to economic measurement, are mainly referred to medical activity (Diagnosis Related Group [DRG]) while the activity carried out by nurses is not adequately recognized,   resulting in a reduction in the needs of health workers (D'Agostino et al., 2012).

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