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Critical Care Nursing in Palestine : Past and Current Situation

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Critical care nursing

- ▶ Critical care nursing is the field of nursing with a focus on the care of the critically ill or unstable patients.
- ▶ Critical care nurses can be found working in a wide variety of environments and specialties, such as emergency departments and the intensive care units.

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- ▶ The aims of *Intensive and Critical Care Nursing* are to promote excellence of care of critically ill patients by specialist nurses and their professional colleagues.

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- ▶ to provide an international and interdisciplinary forum for the publication, dissemination and exchange of research findings, experience and ideas.
- ▶ to develop and enhance the knowledge, skills, attitudes and creative thinking essential to good critical care nursing practice.

Employment areas

- ▶ Critical care nurses work in a variety of different areas, with a diverse patient population. There are many critical care nurses working in hospitals in intensive care units, post-operative care and high dependency units. They also work on medical evacuation and transport teams

- ▶ Subspecialties of critical care nursing include such areas as Neonatal Intensive Care (also called Nursery ICU), Pediatric Intensive Care (or PICU), and Adult Intensive Care (or ICU).

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The challenge of providing health care in conflict situations

- ▶ The closure of borders and rigid control of Palestinian movement means that Palestinians in Gaza who are at risk medically are frequently prevented from seeking health care elsewhere.

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- ▶ Conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory present unique problems to the delivery of health services. In times of armed conflict, the Agency has strained to sustain existing services while simultaneously responding to emergency needs.

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Critical care Nursing in Palestine in the past

HISTORY

- ▶ The first C.C.U and I.C.U was opened in AL-Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem since 1982 , and 1985 .
- ▶ During the first intifada the critical case was transferred to Al-Makassed Hospital
- ▶ Then I.C.U was opened in Rafedia hospital in Nablus since 1989

Number of Intensive care beds in governmental hospitals West bank 1994

Hospital	G.I.C.U	I.C.C. U	I.M.U	N.I.C.U
RAFEDIA	3			
AL-WATANY		4		
RAMALLAH	4			

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Number of Intensive care beds in governmental hospitals West bank 2002

Hospital	G.I.C.U	I.C.C.U	I.M.U	N.I.C.U
JENEIN	3			
TALKAREM				
RAFEDIA	3			13(Incubator
AL-WATANY		4		7(Incubator
RAMALLAH	4	8	2	
BEAT JALA	5			
JERICO				
HEPRON	4	6		13(Incubator
TOTAL	19	18	2	33

Number of Intensive care beds in governmental hospitals West bank 2008

Hospital	G.I.C.U	I.C.C. U	I.M.U	N.I.C.U
JENEIN	4			
TALKAREM	4			
RAFEDIA	4		4	13(Incubator
AL-WATANY		4		10(Incubator
RAMALLAH	6	8		
BEAT JALA	5			
JERICO	2			
HEPRON	5	8	9	13(Incubator
TOTAL	30	20	13	36

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Distribution of hospitals, Palestine 2006

Types of hospitals	WEST BANK	GAZA STRIP
Ministry of Health	12	12
UNWRAS	1	
NGOS	20	10
private	21	2
Total	54	24

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Distribution of beds (governmental hospitals) by Special care departments and region, Palestine, 2006

Department	West bank		Gaza Strip			
	No	%	No	%		
Special care beds	140	4.9	164	5.7		
General Intensive Care Unit (G.I.C.U)	33	1.2	28	1.0		
Intensive Coronary Care Unit (I.C.C.U)	13	0.5	20	0.7		
Intensive Medical Unit (I.M.U)	8	0.3		0.0		
Burns Units	9	0.3	8	0.3		
Paediatric ICU		0.0	10	0.3		
Neonatal Unit	77	2.7	98	3.4		

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Progress

- ▶ **The International Palestinian Cardiac Relief Organization (IPCRO)** was established in 2003 by the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF) in coordination with many of the international volunteers who we have worked with extensively in providing adult and pediatric cardiac surgery in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

- ▶ The success of IPCRO in establishing a functioning pediatric cardiac surgery program in Palestine has been demonstrated by the fact that in 2007 and again in 2008, 200 sick babies had open-heart surgery in Makassed Hospital each year

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Project of Palestinian Territories - West Bank and Gaza Strip

Executing agencies Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC)

With participation of - Ministry of Health

Project start 12 November 2001 achievement of the following specific objectives:

1. To improve, by establishment of a catheterization unit in Gaza, diagnostic

and therapeutic care of cardio-vascular disease

2. Improvement of Intensive Care capacity at Ramallah Government Hospital by establishment of an ICU/CCU

RECOMMENDATION

- ▶ Clinical Practice
- ▶ Working to stay up to date on the latest evidence-based practice? Our easy-to-use clinical resources and publications, created by national experts, provide the standard for acute and critical care nursing practice.

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Certification

- ▶ Our certification programs are a mark of excellence, providing nurses a way to validate their specialized knowledge, skills and abilities against the national standard

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Education

- ▶ The courses focus on the comprehensive delivery of nursing care to adult and geriatric patients hospitalized for complex, acute or chronic conditions in critical care units
- ▶ to apply theoretical knowledge received in clinical settings. Experience in using the nursing process in provision of nursing intervention with critically patients will be stressed

Referances

- ▶ Palestinian health information center -Ministry of health

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