Examination of Clinical Decision Making Perceptions of Nursing Students

Abstract

In the study, clinical decision making perceptions of students who had clinical practice experience were evaluated. The sample was 210 nursing students. Data were collected through the Clinical Decision Making in Nursing Scale. There were significant differences between total scale score and three subscale scores of nursing students. According to one-year follow-up results, it was found that pre-graduation clinical decision making perception scores of students were low. For all of the classes, there is a need to implement different education methods which will elevate students’ perceptions of making clinical decisions in accordance with their developmental properties and to evaluate their results.

Keywords: decision making, nursing education, nursing students, Turkey.

Introduction

Decision making is one of the skills that should be acquired by individuals. Decision making includes intelligence, intellectual and cognitive activities; it is a complex structure and requires the use of the critical thinking skill (Taşçı, 2005). Clinical decision making is defined as selecting the most appropriate, useful, effective and acceptable action among those envisaged for the solution of problems of individuals and families or putting it into practice (Thompson, Dowding, 2002). In clinical decision making in nursing, the nurse should analyze the data related to the clinical situation of the patient, describe the problem, provide care by determining effective and useful interventions out of goal-oriented alternatives, comprehend