

ABSTRACT

Title: AWARENESS OF MEETING

A study of the nurse's pedagogical function and competence in teaching patients' relatives and significant others

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The patient's social network and its significance are part of the holistic view of the patient that is emphasised in health care today. This means that the problems the patient has affect the people close to them in various ways and to a greater extent than before.

The aim of the study is to conceptualise the meeting between the nurse and patients' relatives and significant others within rehabilitation care, partly by describing how relatives experience the exchange of information, partly by describing the nurse's pedagogical function and competence when meeting relatives.

During the project various qualitative data collection methods have been used at different stages: *focus groups* with relatives and with nurses (who themselves have been relatives and significant others), *observations and interviews*. The analysis has applied *constant comparative analysis* and has been inspired by *classical grounded theory*.

Awareness of meeting has evolved as a general concept when trying to determine the nurse's pedagogical function in the meeting. What appears to be important to both parties in the teaching of relatives and significant others are the *attitudes* of the actors and the *pedagogical method* by which information and knowledge are mediated, transferred or exchanged. The nurse can improve the insight of the relatives by conscious active communication, both with regard to the transfer of information/exchange of knowledge and her attitude, thereby enabling them to improve the conditions for mastering the situation after the patient is discharged from hospital.

Teaching is an area in which the nurse has formal competence, but it is not given high priority. More attention should be paid to it through, for example, in-house training of the professionally active, and by giving the teaching of patients' relatives and significant others a justified and more clearly defined place in nursing education. The changes that have come to affect everyday life more and more, curtailing the possibility of relatives and significant others to obtain support and relief at home have made the problem of information and teaching even more urgent during the shorter stay in hospital, an area for nurses to both watch and develop.