



# The Investigation of the effect of the reasons of Rationing Nursing Care on the quality of holistic nursing care

Yi-Chen Tang,  
Deputy Director of Nursing, Kaohsiung Municipal United Hospital

## Introduction

Rationing of Nursing Care (RNC) refers to the practice where healthcare providers are unable to perform all their nursing duties due to limitations in resources, time, or staff. This study aims to delve into the impacts of RNC within a medical hospital setting in Southern Taiwan, providing insights into how such constraints can affect patient treatment and nursing staff well-being. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for improving health outcomes and promoting a healthier work environment for nurses.

## Research Background

In the context of global healthcare, especially in areas with high patient loads like Taiwan, RNC (Resource Not Commensurate) is a common issue. It is caused by multiple factors including staff shortages, high acuity of patients, and insufficient material resources. These constraints not only hinder patient care but also lead to job dissatisfaction and increased stress among nursing professionals. As this issue is less discussed in the region of Taiwan, this study highlights the critical areas needing intervention to improve patient care and the nursing work environment.

## Research Method

- ◆ **Participants:**  
260 ward nurses from a medical center in Taiwan were selected through convenience sampling to participate in this study.
- ◆ **Instruments:**  
The study employed two main instruments:  
Chinese Perceived Implicit Rationing of Nursing Care (CPIRNCA)  
- This scale measures the frequency of rationing as perceived by nursing staff. Chinese Rationing of Nursing Care Reasons (CRRNC)  
- This scale helps identify the reasons behind why certain nursing tasks are omitted.
- ◆ **Procedure:**  
Nurses were asked to complete a questionnaire that included both the CPIRNCA and CRRNC scales, along with demographic questions to gather data on their work experience and background.
- ◆ **Data Analysis:**  
The collected data were analyzed using statistical software. Descriptive statistics provided a basic understanding of the data while inferential statistics like chi-square tests and logistic regression were used to explore the relationships between various factors contributing to RNC.

## Research Results

- ◆ **Findings:**  
The most frequently omitted nursing tasks included documentation, timely medication administration, and patient monitoring. Major reasons cited for these omissions were high patient-to-nurse ratios, unexpected increases in patient volume and lack of support staff.
- ◆ **Statistical Analysis:**  
Chi-square tests revealed significant associations between staff shortages and the likelihood of nursing task omissions. Logistic regression analysis indicated that higher patient acuity levels were significantly correlated with increased rationing of care.

## Research Discussion

This study's findings underscore the substantial impact of resource limitations on nursing care quality. The data suggest that improving staffing levels, enhancing workflow efficiency, and better resource allocation could mitigate the effects of RNC. Furthermore, policy reforms aimed at increasing healthcare funding and resource availability are recommended to address the underlying causes of RNC effectively.

## Research Conclusion

RNC is a pervasive issue that detrimentally affects patient care and nursing job satisfaction. This study highlights the need for systemic reforms to address the causes of RNC in Taiwan. By adopting the recommended health promotion strategies, healthcare institutions can improve nursing care quality and create a more supportive work environment for their staff. Future research should further investigate the specific impacts of these strategies on patient outcomes and nurse well-being.

## Health Promotion Strategies

- To combat the challenges presented by RNC, several health promotion strategies are proposed:
- a. **Improving Staffing Ratios:** Ensuring adequate nurse-to-patient ratios through policy changes and better resource allocation.
  - b. **Enhancing Professional Development:** Providing continuous education and training opportunities for nurses to improve their efficiency and caregiving capabilities.
  - c. **Optimizing Workflow:** Implementing lean management principles to enhance operational efficiency and reduce unnecessary workload on nursing staff.
  - d. **Strengthening Support Systems:** Establishing robust support structures, including both logistical and emotional support to assist nurses in managing work stress and improving job satisfaction.

## Future Directions

Continued research is essential to monitor the effectiveness of implemented strategies and to refine approaches based on outcomes. Additionally, expanding this research to include multiple centers across Taiwan would provide a broader understanding of RNC and its impacts across different healthcare settings.

