

REVIEW

by Prof. Galina Stamova Tchaneva, PhD

Head of the "Health Care" department at the Faculty of Public Health

"Prof. Dr. Ts. Vodenicharov, dms" of the University of Sofia - Sofia

Appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury by Order No. R-109-310/29.07.2022 of the Rector of the Medical University

"Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - city of Varna

Regarding: Procedure for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" of Donka Trifonova Sultanova - full-time doctoral student in the doctoral program "Health Care Management"

on the subject:

**"Particularity of health care and infection control in
Children's ward"**

The dissertation examines the prevention and control of nosocomial infections as a prerequisite for ensuring quality health care for children during their hospital treatment. The prevention and control of infections related to medical care in children's wards requires an increase in the professional qualification of the staff and the introduction of standards to guarantee the prevention of the development of infections related to the care of sick children. Studying the problems that accompany the hospital treatment of pediatric patients is an opportunity to improve the organization of health care and ensure a safe environment during hospitalization. Parental satisfaction with children's hospital stays is another important aspect of health care. That is why I believe that the dissertation work developed by Donka Sultanova examines current issues in the field of pediatric care.

Donka Sultanova has completed bachelor's and master's degrees:

- 2017 - specialty "nurse" - ONS "Bachelor" at MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, Sliven Branch.

- 2019 - specialty "Health Care Management" - ONS "Master" at Trakia University - Stara Zagora.

In the period before medical education, D. Sultanova performed administrative activities in pre-hospital care in the town of Sliven. Since 2017, she has been performing the position of "nurse" in the Department of Pediatrics of the Medical Center "Dr. Ivan Seliminski" - Sliven.

The dissertation is structured in 137 pages and includes three chapters: first chapter – Theoretical foundations of the research. Relevance of the problem; second chapter - Methodology of the research; Chapter Three – Results and Discussion; conclusions, contributions and applications. The literature used includes 175 sources, of which 59 are in cyrillic and 116 are in latin.

The first chapter includes a description of health care in childhood and the spread of infections related to medical care in the conditions of the children's hospital. Data are presented from scientific studies of the organization of healthcare in childhood, both in the country and also in some EU countries and the world. Childhood demographic indicators of countries in Africa and South Asia are analyzed. The priorities of the National Maternal and Child Health System and the Child Health Program of the National Health Insurance Fund are described. Statistical data on the spread of infections related to medical care in the conditions of a children's hospital were studied. According to the European Center for Disease Control, 36% of hospital-acquired infections are preventable, demonstrating the need for healthcare organization to improve infection control.

The purpose of the dissertation work fully corresponds to the topic chosen by the doctoral student, as it is aimed at studying the organization of health care in children's wards with regard to infection control and the professional competencies of the staff related to the control of intra-hospital infections. The tasks are specifically and clearly formulated in accordance with the set goal and working hypotheses.

The methodology includes a description of data collection methods and data analysis methods. The study is aimed at the nurses and orderlies from the pediatric structures of the university hospitals in the city of Sliven and the city of Varna, as well as students from the "nursing" specialty of the MU-Varna and the Sliven Branch.

The results of the conducted research are presented graphically and analytically in the third chapter. The dissertation contains 91 figures. The data obtained have been discussed and analyzed very thoroughly. The knowledge of nurses, students and orderlies regarding the general situation and the responsibility in the implementation of activities for the prevention and control of nosocomial infections were studied. The PhD student points out that more than 1/3 of health care professionals and students are not sufficiently informed about the problems of nosocomial infections. The knowledge of the standards for prevention of nosocomial infections in the children's wards by the staff was investigated. The PhD student proves the need to educate nurses, students and orderlies regarding the specific professional activities and responsibilities for the prevention of nosocomial infections, as well as the importance of control for compliance with standards.

The obtained results are analyzed and synthetically presented. The conclusions are logically formulated on the basis of the data obtained from the research. A scientific style and language was used to analyze the problems related to the prevention and control of nosocomial infections.

The contributions of the dissertation work are as follows:

- A conceptual model has been developed for research and optimization of nosocomial infection control in a children's ward.
- The professional competences of the medical and non-medical staff in a children's ward regarding nosocomial infections were studied and analyzed.
- An organizational model has been created for ongoing verification and control of the training and competencies of health care professionals working in a children's ward.

The abstract of the dissertation contains the main elements of the research conducted by the doctoral student. The results are graphically presented and thoroughly analyzed. Three publications related to the dissertation are presented, of which Donka Sultanova is the first author.

In conclusion, I believe that the dissertation work developed by Donka Sultanova on the topic: "Peculiarities of health care and infection control in a children's ward" has significant contributions regarding increasing the awareness of the staff and compliance with the standards for the prevention and control of nosocomial infections.

I give a positive assessment of the developed dissertation work and recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to make a decision to award Donka Trifonova Sultanova, educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.4. Public Health, specialty Health Care Management.

26.09.2022

Reviewer:

Prof. G. Tchaneva, PhD

