



Midocean University

Faculty of Management

Department/Specialization: Master's in Healthcare Administration

Title of The Report

Assessment of Nurses' Knowledge and Practice Regarding Adult Patient Fall
Prevention in a Private Hospital in Saudi Arabia

Student Preparation

Khaled El Mostafa

253002008

Supervision

Dr. Al-Faisal Abdel Hamid

Dr. Fayez Jarad

Academic Year:

2026

1) Introduction

Scientific research ethics refer to the set of moral principles, professional standards, and regulatory guidelines that govern the conduct of researchers throughout the research process. According to Resnik (2020), research ethics ensure that scientific inquiry is conducted with honesty, transparency, respect for participants, and responsibility toward society. Ethical research protects human subjects, enhances the credibility of findings, and strengthens public trust in science.

The purpose of this report is to analyze the ethical principles relevant to scientific research and apply them directly to the student's research topic: *"Assessment of Nurses' Knowledge and Practice Regarding Adult Patient Fall Prevention in a Private Hospital in Saudi Arabia."* This report demonstrates how ethical standards guide the design, data collection, and implementation of the study.

2) The importance of scientific research ethics

Ethics are essential in scientific research because they ensure the integrity, reliability, and credibility of results. Ethical compliance prevents harm to participants, promotes fairness, and ensures that research outcomes can be trusted by policymakers, healthcare institutions, and society.

In healthcare research, ethics are particularly critical because studies often involve human subjects whose privacy, safety, and dignity must be protected. For example, in a study assessing nurses' knowledge and practices, ethical guidelines ensure that participants are not exposed to professional risk, that their responses remain confidential, and that the data collected reflect reality without manipulation.

Ethics also enhances the reliability of scientific research. When researchers follow ethical standards—such as transparency, informed consent, and confidentiality—the resulting data are more accurate and credible, supporting evidence-based decision-making in healthcare settings.

3) Basic Principles of Research Ethics

1. Scientific Honesty

Definition: Presenting data truthfully without fabrication, falsification, or misrepresentation.

Example: Reporting the actual number of nurses who completed the questionnaire, even if the response rate is lower than expected.

2. Integrity

Definition: Consistency between actions, values, and ethical commitments throughout the research process.

Example: Following the approved research protocol and not altering the methodology midway without IRB approval.

3. Objectivity

Definition: Avoiding personal bias, conflicts of interest, or subjective influence on data collection and interpretation.

Example: Ensuring that the researcher does not influence nurses' answers by providing hints or leading questions.

4. Confidentiality

Definition: Protecting participants' private information and ensuring that data cannot be traced back to individuals.

Example: Storing complete questionnaires anonymously and using coded identifiers instead of names.

5. Informed Consent

Definition: Ensuring participants voluntarily agree to take part in the study after understanding its purpose, risks, and benefits.

Example: Providing nurses with a consent form explaining that participation is voluntary and that they may withdraw at any time.

4) Ethical Issues in Scientific Research

1. Plagiarism

Issue: Using others' work without proper acknowledgment.

Example: Copying definitions of fall prevention strategies from published studies without citation.

2. Data Falsification

Issue: Manipulating or altering data to achieve desired results.

Example: Changing nurses' practice scores to make them appear higher than they actually are.

3. Bias

Issue: Allowing personal beliefs or expectations to influence research outcomes.

Example: Selecting only highly experienced nurses to make the hospital appear compliant with safety standards.

4. Invasion of Privacy

Issue: Collecting personal or sensitive information without permission.

Example: Asking nurses about their performance evaluations or disciplinary history, which is unrelated to the study.

5. Conflict of Interest

Issue: When personal or institutional interests influence research decisions.

Example: A researcher employed by the hospital may feel pressured to report favorable results.

5) Rules and Regulations Governing Research Ethics

Research ethics are governed by international and institutional guidelines designed to protect participants and ensure scientific integrity.

Institutional Review Boards (IRBs)

IRBs evaluate research proposals to ensure that risks are minimized, confidentiality is protected, and informed consent is properly obtained. No data collection may begin without IRB approval.

APA Ethical Standards

The American Psychological Association (APA) provides guidelines on:

- Ethical data handling
- Proper citation
- Avoiding plagiarism

- Ensuring participant welfare

International and Local Standards

- Belmont Report (1979): Respect for persons, beneficence, and justice
- Declaration of Helsinki (2013): Ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects
- Saudi MOH & CBAHI Guidelines: Require informed consent, confidentiality, and safe data handling in healthcare research

These regulations ensure that research is conducted responsibly and transparently.

6) Practical application to the research topic

This part is the most important part of the report.

This section applies ethical principles directly to the study: “Assessment of Nurses’ Knowledge and Practice Regarding Adult Patient Fall Prevention in a Private Hospital in Saudi Arabia.”

1. Ethical Data Collection

- Data will be collected using an anonymous electronic questionnaire (SurveyMonkey).
- No personal identifiers (names, ID numbers, job evaluations) will be collected.
- Participation is voluntary and does not affect employment status.

2. Informed Consent

- Nurses will receive a consent form explaining:
 - Study purpose
 - Procedures
 - Risks and benefits

- Confidentiality measures
 - Right to withdraw
- Only nurses who provide consent will proceed to the questionnaire.

3. Confidentiality and Privacy

- Responses will be stored in password-protected files accessible only to the research team.
- Data will be reported in aggregate form (e.g., percentages, mean scores).
- No individual nurse or department will be identifiable.

4. Minimizing Risks

The study poses minimal risk because:

- It involves self-reported knowledge and practice.
- No physical or psychological harm is expected.
- No sensitive personal data is collected.

5. Avoiding Bias

- Stratified random sampling ensures fair representation of all units (ICU, Medical-Surgical, ER).
- The researcher will not influence responses.
- Data analysis will follow objective statistical methods (SPSS).

6. Ethical Handling of Results

- Findings will be reported honestly, even if they reveal gaps in practice.
- Results will be used to improve patient safety, not to evaluate individual nurses.

7. IRB Approval

- The study will begin only after receiving approval from the hospital's Institutional Review Board.
- Any modification to the protocol will require additional approval.

7) Conclusion

Scientific research ethics are fundamental to producing credible, reliable, and socially responsible research. Ethical principles such as honesty, confidentiality, informed consent, and objectivity ensure that participants are protected and that findings reflect reality. In the context of the fall-prevention study, applying ethical standards strengthens the validity of the results and supports safer healthcare practices in Saudi Arabia's private hospitals. Adhering to research ethics is not only a requirement but a commitment to advancing knowledge responsibly and respectfully.

8) References

Resnik, D. B. (2020). What is ethics in research & why is it important? National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).

World Medical Association. (2013). Declaration of Helsinki: Ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects.

Ministry of Health (Saudi Arabia). (2023). Nursing Clinical Practice Guidelines: Fall Prevention.

CBAHI. (2024). National Hospital Standards for Patient Safety.