

How do I determine if a study was conducted in the United States?

Look for clues within the database and the article. Here are elements to consider: (1) author(s)' details; (2) the article's subject headings; (3) the article's abstract; and (4) the introduction and methods sections. **Start with the author(s)' details.**

Step One: Select *any title* from the search results and open the article's record.



The screenshot shows a database record for the article "Frequency and Duration of Nursing Care Related to Older Patient Mobility." The authors listed are Doherty-King, Barbara; Yoon, Ju Young; Pecanac, Kristen; Brown, Roger; and Mahoney, Jane. The affiliation field lists several roles at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, including Assistant Professor, Doctoral student, and Professor in the School of Nursing and School of Medicine and Public Health Division of Geriatrics. The authors and affiliation fields are circled in black.

Note the author affiliation field, showing names, educational history, and professional appointments. If a majority (or all) of the authors reflect American institutions and organizations, there is a good chance the study was conducted in the United States.

Step Two: While this page is live, scroll down to the subject headings area -- "Major Subjects" and "Minor Subjects." Look for indications of a location in either list.



The screenshot shows the subject headings area for the article "Frequency and Duration of Nursing Care Related to Older Patient Mobility." The Major Subjects field lists Nursing Care, Physical Mobility -- In Old Age, Acute Care -- In Old Age, and Registered Nurses. The Minor Subjects field lists Human; Observational Methods; Computers and Computerization; Time and Motion Studies; Record Review; Medical Records; Aged; Time Factors; Hospital Units; Midwestern United States; Descriptive Statistics; Descriptive Research; Walking; Regression; Male; Female; Field Notes; Aged, 80 and Over; Body Mass Index; Ambulation; Information Resources; World Wide Web. The Major Subjects and Minor Subjects fields are circled in black.

Step Three: Scroll down a bit further to reach the article's abstract. This summary may plainly state or indicate the location of the study.

Abstract: Purpose To evaluate the frequency and duration of nursing care activity related to mobilizing older patients in acute care settings and determining who initiates the mobility event (patient or nurse). Methods This was an observation study using time and motion. Observers shadowed 15 registered nurses (RNs) each for two to three 8-hr periods using hand-held computer tablets to collect data on frequency and duration of six mobility events (standing, transferring, walking to and from the patient bathroom, walking in the patient room, and walking in the hallway) that occurred in the nurse's presence. Chart reviews were conducted on 47 adult patients (> 65 years of age) who were cared for by the nurses during the observation periods. Descriptive statistics (mean, median, standard deviation, frequency, and proportion) were used to describe the occurrence of mobility events among all 47 patients and among a subgroup of 16 patients identified as dependent (needing human assistance of another to ambulate) at the time of admission. Results Thirty-two percent of older patients were not engaged by an RN in any mobility event during an 8-hr period. For all patients, standing and transferring were the most frequent mobility activity. Mean duration for ambulation was less than 2 min per observation period. Patients who were dependent had fewer mobility events with no events related to ambulation initiated by nurses. The majority of mobility events were initiated by patients. Conclusions Nurses infrequently initiated mobility events for hospitalized older patients and most often engaged patients in low-level activity (standing and transferring). Clinical Relevance Limited mobility (standing and transferring only) is an independent predictor of negative outcomes for hospitalized older patients. Nurses are in a key position to improve outcomes for hospitalized older patients by engaging them in mobility activity, particularly ambulation, but further research is needed to determine how best to engage nurses in these activities.

Step Four: Still not sure if the study was conducted in the United States? Open the full text file and read through the article's introduction AND methods sections. The study should provide details on where its research was conducted.

Research has shown that patients infrequently ambulate during their hospital stay. Fisher et al. (2011) found that 96% of the time during their hospital stay, older patients are not engaged in ambulation. Callen et al. (2004) identified that only 27% of patients whom nurses considered able to walk in a hospital hallway actually did so during a 3-hr observation period. Brown, Redden, Flood, and Allman (2009) reported that 23% to 33% of patients have mobility limited to the bed or chair, and 83% of their time they spend lying in bed. Furthermore, an estimated 16% to 33% of older patients are on complete bed rest during their hospital stay (Brown, Friedkin, & Inouye, 2004).

Providing support and necessary assistance to increase patient mobility is a fundamental nursing care activity. Patient mobility has consistently been embedded as a central nursing activity within several nursing diagnosis frameworks and has been incorporated into nursing care models and grand theories (Carpenito-Moyet, 2006;

Journal of Nursing Scholarship, 2014; 46:1, 20-27.
© 2013 Sigma Theta Tau International

Methods

The study used a time and motion design to determine the frequency and duration of nursing care related to patient mobility. Time and motion designs have been used widely in work measurement and involve continuous timed observations of a single person during a typical shift (Burke, McKee, Wilson, Donahue, Batenhorst, & Pathak, 2000). Nurses were observed during their 8-hr shift as they provided care to older patients. Frequency and duration of six types of mobility events (standing, transferring, walking to and from the bathroom, walking within the patient room, and walking in the hallway) were collected.

Study Sites and Sample

Institutional review board approval was obtained prior to the start of the study. The study was conducted on two

21

medical-surgical units at Site A (an 81-bed veterans hospital) and on four medical units at Site B (a 405-bed academic teaching hospital in the Midwest). Nurse subjects signed a consent form and completed a nurse characteristic questionnaire (age, level of education, years' experience as a nurse) prior to the observation. Patients pro-

following them. Patients were offered an opportunity to not have the observer present during nursing care. All patients agreed to have the observer present during nursing care.

Data Collection

A last note...

A journal with the word “American” in its title does NOT mean that studies were conducted in the United States. Be sure to follow ALL these steps for any article under consideration.