

NURSING ACTIVITIES AT THE OPHTHALMOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN KAUNAS CLINICS (LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES HOSPITAL)

The Hospital of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Kauno Clinics is the largest healthcare institution in Lithuania. The Ophthalmology Department employs 270 people, of whom 158 work in the nursing field.

The ophthalmology department has 4 units and an operating room. The outpatient activities of the ophthalmology department include the Eye Diseases Consultative Diagnostic Unit and the Children's Eye Diseases Outpatient Unit. About 64,000 diagnostic tests were performed here in 2021, of which 97 percent were performed by nurses independently. 2021 nurses prepared about 69,000 patients for ophthalmic examination. 38 nurses work in outpatient activities, performing 20 different functions independently.

The following units are involved in inpatient activities: the Department of Children's Eye Diseases; the One-day Surgical Division; and the Inpatient Department of Adult Eye Diseases. The ophthalmology department has 78 beds for inpatient services. In 2021 the department will provide about 11,000 inpatient services. 40 nurses are working in inpatient activities and independently perform about 12 different functions.

The operating room of the clinic employs 15 nurses. In 2021 about 11,000 different operations were performed here.

At the department, nurses fill in electronic documentation in the hospital's information system: they complete the bed rest assessment protocols, patient collapse probability assessment protocols, and lead services performed (ACHI). Nursing histories are currently being completed on paper. We also record and evaluate adverse events.

We actively participate in the development of nursing documentation. In 2021, 3 nursing documents were prepared (2 patient training programs and 1 nursing protocol).

From 2020 to 2022, the clinic had a COVID-19 testing point, in which examinations were performed for the staff of Kaunas clinics and patients of 5 Kaunas clinics before elective operations.

During the quarantine period, the department's nurses not only worked in various units of the department but were also sent to work in other departments of the Kaunas Clinics, where they gained invaluable experience and some specific work skills.

A perspective of the department's nursing activities: continue to improve the quality of care; carry out training for patients and their relatives; continue to develop new training programs; proper allocation of human resources; continue to complete electronic nursing documentation; monitor and label patients' vital signs regularly; update available tools; carry out a staff satisfaction survey assessing the motivation to work and the quality of services provided; increase patient satisfaction with the services provided; improve communication skills with patients; reduce staff shortages.