

**Background:** Registered Nurses with a Master's degree in Prehospital Emergency Care (PENs) are required to provide advanced prehospital care to patients of all ages. Caring for pediatric trauma patients is described as especially demanding. There is a need to explore further the PENs' preparedness caring for these patients.

**Methods:** A present pilot-study analyzed the content of a valid questionnaire with 36 questions about PENs' self-reported preparedness in caring for pediatric trauma patients. The questionnaire included background characteristics and questions about experiences, education, equipment, practice, knowledge, and the probability of a mass-casualty event. A five-point Lickert-scale was used. Thirty-five PENs from northern Sweden participated.

**Results:** PENs reported a greater than a high degree of having received trauma care education, but education relating to pediatric care was scarce, and none of the education included mass-casualty events. However, one-half of them reported more than a high degree of expectancy that a mass-casualty event involving pediatric trauma patients could take place within their ambulance catchment area. Only 40% have a high degree or more of knowledge concerning pediatric patients' vital signs and normal values. PENs (97%) reported low experience in pediatric trauma patient triage in the prehospital setting. One-half of the PENs experienced symptoms of stress when responding to a pediatric trauma alarm, and some also reported reactions such as depression, sadness, unpleasant memories, and fatigue after the alarm.

**Conclusion:** It seems that too few of the PENs have high or more preparedness for caring for pediatric trauma patients in a prehospital setting. Improving the PENs' preparedness for caring for pediatric trauma patients may lead to better opportunities for quality in patient care and for PENs' health. These pilot results indicate a need for further studies.

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## A Program to Reduce Nurse Attrition Rate in a Tertiary Care Emergency Medicine Department in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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**Study/Objective:** The objective of this study is to assess factors that lead to high nursing attrition rates in the emergency department.

**Background:** Emergency medicine is a medical field that is recently introduced to African settings. Among so many particularities of the field, consistent and effective teamwork is the most prominent. Despite the need for consistency, there is often a high turnover for non-MD staff in the emergency department, which leads to a loss of expertise, experience, and affects care delivery.

**Methods:** A pilot study on needs assessment for improving emergency care was conducted on professionals working in the emergency center of Black Lion Hospital. From these, one of the recommendations was recognition of role models. Subsequent interventions will include recognition letters and awards for outstanding performers. The baseline data will be compared with the data after intervention. A standard questionnaire and SPSS version 20 will be used.

**Results:** The pilot study data were collected from a total of 21 nurses working in the emergency room. The mean working experience in the ED was 2.1 (SD = 2.39) years. Problems with setup, system, and communication were identified as discouraging factors to work in the emergency room of Black Lion. Actions to improve the clinical service included improving the setup, developing systems, working on the staff retention, eg recognizing those with outstanding performances and improving inter-professional communication.

**Conclusion:** The nursing attrition rate is high in the emergency room of Black Lion Hospital. There is a need to improve the system, setup, management, and communication problems. Subsequent interventions are expected to bring a change in the nurse attrition rate and better clinical service.

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