



## COMPARISON OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF NURSES IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE IN THE PEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE UNIT AND ADULT INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

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**Background and Aim:** Drug calculation is one of the most important duties of nurses, and its failure can lead to serious dangers for the patient. To this end, this study was conducted to determine the pharmacological knowledge and medication skill of nurses working in the pediatric intensive care unit and adult intensive care unit and compare them. **Methods:** In this cross-sectional study, 150 nurses working in the pediatric intensive care unit and adolescent intensive care unit of Kermanshah in 2017 were randomly selected. The data collection tool was demographic information and a researcher-made questionnaire based on knowledge of pharmacology and pharmaceutical calculations. Content validity and reliability were 88% with Cronbach's alpha. The data were analyzed using SPSS16 software. **Results:** The results showed that nurses' knowledge of pediatric intensive care unit (50%) and adult intensive care unit (49.5%) were good in the field of drug effect mechanism, which did not have a significant difference. In the pharmacological category, nurses in the pediatric intensive care unit (65%) and adult intensive care unit (63%) were in good condition, with no significant difference. The level of familiarity with the medication calculations of the nurses of the intensive care unit (68%) and the adult intensive care unit (54%) was good and there was a significant statistical difference ( $p < 0.001$ ), which indicates the better situation of the nurses in the care unit Special for children. There was no statistically significant difference in terms of demographic information in the two groups

**Conclusion:** According to the results of this study, the high sensitivity of the pediatric intensive care unit has led nurses to have more knowledge and skills in understanding the drug calculations, which points to the need for attention of nursing managers to other intensive care units.

**Keywords:** Nursing, Medication calculus, Intensive Care Unit