Unfinished Nursing Care: State of the Science Review
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State of the Science
- Conceptualizations of the Phenomenon
- Prevalence
- Antecedents
- Outcomes
- Process & Patterns

Search Process
- EBSCO: CINAHL & MEDLINE
- Terms: implicit ration*, miss* care; ration* care; task* undone; unfinish* care
- 54/1375 Papers met eligibility criteria:
  - Hospital setting
  - Conceptual definitions and/or analysis
  - Original qualitative & quantitative research
  - Instrument development and/or evaluation
  - Literature reviews

The Science of Unfinished Care
78% of the science

Tasks Undone
- Omission
- Overload
- Missed Rationing
- Missed Care

Implicit Rationing
- Missed Rationing
- Missed Care

Missed Care
- Missed Rationing
- Missed Care
- Missed Care
Prevalence & Antecedents
- High Prevalence
  - 50-97% report leaving ≥ 1 activities unfinished
  - Mean ranges 6-22 activities
  - Occurs across all categories of nursing care
- 2 Consistently Identified Antecedents
  - Nurse staffing
  - Team behaviors

Associated Outcomes
- Patients
  - Lower quality of care
  - Adverse events
  - Mortality
  - Lower satisfaction
- Nurses
  - Job/occupation satisfaction
  - Turnover/Intent to stay
- A stronger predictor of patient outcomes than nurse staffing indices

Patterns of Unfinished Care
Most Often
- Emotional support
- Education
- Coordination & Discharge Planning
- Care Planning
- Timeliness of intervention
Least Often
- Infection control
- Treatments, tests, procedures
- Providing Nutrition
- Assisting with Elimination

How Nurses Prioritize
- Maslow effect
- Visible & temporal outcome effect
- Time cost effect
- Collective cooperation effect
- Audit effect

Limitations & Recommendations
- Limitations
  - Observational Study Designs
  - Relatively Few Primary Samples
  - Potential for Instrument Bias
  - Potential for Common Method/Source Bias
- Recommendations
  - Research, Practice, Education, Policy