
Scientific Abstract: Using technical language, briefly describe the proposed project in 200 words or less.

Missed nursing care is increasingly recognized as an error of omission with potential implications for patients. Missed nursing care may be of particular concern for infants in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) whose care needs are complex and prolonged. Many studies examining associations between nurse workloads and patient outcomes speculate that the negative effects of high workloads may be due to care omissions by nurses working under time and resource constraints. The purpose of this PS2 research study is to develop an understanding of consequences of and contributors to missed nursing care in the NICU through the pursuit of the following aims: 1) To test missed care as a variable mediating the effect of nurse workload on neonatal outcomes and 2) To determine predicted probabilities of missed nursing care conditioned upon nurse characteristics. We propose a clinical outcomes study focused on nurses and infants in one tertiary NICU. A comprehensive training plan to facilitate the principal investigator's conduct of the research has been developed in conjunction with a team of experienced research mentors. The overall training and research objectives outlined in the application can be met at the institution with the support of mentors and collaborators.

Lay Abstract: Using non-technical language, briefly describe the proposed project in 100 words or less.

Necessary nursing care is sometimes not provided during a hospitalization and this may cause harm to patients. Babies receiving care in an intensive care unit may be especially affected when needed care is missed because they are hospitalized for long periods of time and have complex care needs. This study will help to increase our understanding of what happens when needed care is missed and will identify factors that help explain why it happens. We will test whether missed care explains the observed link between high nurse workloads and poor patient outcomes.