

Integration Between Nursing And Social Work In Improving Health Care Outcomes

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Abstract:

This study aimed to identify the role of integration between nursing and social work and its impact on improving the quality of health care through a field study conducted in private hospitals in the city of Riyadh. This was achieved by measuring the level of communication and coordination between health care teams, the psychological and social support provided to patients, and the reflection of this integration on treatment quality and beneficiary satisfaction. The study adopted the descriptive analytical approach, and an electronic questionnaire designed via Google Drive was used. The questionnaire consisted of (32) statements distributed across four main dimensions and was applied to a convenience sample of (40) social workers and nurses working in hospitals in Riyadh. Data were analyzed using the SPSS program, where Cronbach's alpha coefficient was calculated to assess reliability, along with means, standard deviations, and simple regression analysis.

The results showed a very high level of reliability for the instrument, with an overall coefficient of (0.963). The findings also revealed a high overall level of agreement across all study dimensions. The dimension of psychological and social support for patients ranked first with a mean of (3.96), followed by the dimensions of communication and coordination between health care teams and professional knowledge and skills with a mean of (3.84), while the dimension of health care quality ranked last with a mean of (3.80). The results of the regression analysis further confirmed the existence of a statistically significant effect of integration between nursing and social work on improving the quality of health care, with the explanatory power of the model reaching (76.9%). The study concluded that enhancing professional integration between nursing and social work represents a fundamental approach to improving the patient experience and ensuring the provision of comprehensive health care that takes into account physical, psychological, and social aspects.

Keywords: Medical social worker, health care.

1- Introduction

The profession of the social worker is considered one of the humanitarian professions that aims to help individuals improve their standard of living and meet their needs in a way that prevents these

needs from turning into problems that affect the individual and society. The fields of practice of this profession are diverse, among which the field of patient services in medical institutions is one of the most prominent. This field represents one of the important areas of practical practice for the social worker, due to the diversity of groups they deal with within the hospital, starting from hospital management and members of the medical team, passing through patients and their families, and ending with hospital visitors.

The role of the social worker acquires particular importance in medical institutions that provide palliative care for patients, as they contribute to supporting the various aspects of patient health by enhancing the understanding of illness through its social, psychological, and economic dimensions. The social worker performs a set of roles that help the medical team understand these factors and their impact on the course of treatment, thereby ensuring the development of a treatment plan that takes into account the patient's family, cultural, and psychological environment, and facilitates their adaptation to the illness and improves their quality of life (Al-Salmi, 2024).

Integrating the principles of social work into nursing practices is considered one of the fundamental pillars for developing integrated health care systems. In light of the increasing challenges faced by health institutions globally in responding to the growing health needs of patients, integration between nursing and social work emerges as an effective systematic approach to addressing health determinants in their various physical, psychological, and social dimensions. While nursing traditionally focuses on providing biological and clinical care, social work contributes to deepening the understanding of the social and psychological contexts affecting patient health and quality of life, thereby achieving professional integration that enhances the efficiency of person-centered health care (Khan et al., 2024).

Despite the great importance of this integration, its practical application still faces several fundamental challenges. Many health systems rely on the traditional biomedical model, which focuses primarily on diagnosis and clinical treatment while neglecting aspects of prevention and social support. This orientation leads to marginalizing the role of social workers and limiting the utilization of their expertise, particularly in primary health care settings, which reduces the effectiveness of employing social work principles in improving patient care outcomes (Mann et al., 2016).

On the other hand, social work adopts an approach that primarily centers on the individual within their psychological and social context. This philosophy is inherently multidisciplinary, opening broad horizons for integration between the two professions. While nursing practice covers core biological aspects—such as pathophysiology and clinical treatment management—alongside psychological support and patient education, social work complements this role through expert management of the social domain. This includes family system stability, economic status, securing housing, and ensuring access to resources and community support networks, which are critical elements in addressing the root determinants of health (Collins et al., 2014).

The disciplines of nursing and social work converge on a unified philosophical foundation that places the individual at the center of attention, with a firm commitment to the principles of social justice and community empowerment. This interconnection embodies the model of primary care oriented toward the person, family, and community, where the goal is not limited to providing treatment only, but extends to rebuilding the foundations of health care to become more comprehensive and responsive to complex human and social needs (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine [NASEM], 2021).

The essence of this necessary collaboration revolves around the professions of nursing and social work, where each discipline provides a unique and vital perspective that enhances the quality of patient care. While nursing practice is traditionally based on the “biopsychosocial” model and excels in addressing the physical and clinical dimensions of illness, coordinating care, and educating patients (Beaulieu et al., 2013), social work focuses primarily on the individual's ecological perspective. This includes addressing the social determinants of health, dismantling systemic barriers, advocating for patient rights, providing counseling, and linking patients to essential community resources (Corrigan et al., 2017). Although these two professions have worked for years along parallel paths, the complexities of managing chronic diseases now impose a convergence of these paths. The deep interconnection between the patient's clinical condition and social context has made the boundaries between roles an inseparable organic linkage.

The call to integrate nursing and social work goes beyond being an organizational proposal to become a clinical necessity supported by empirical evidence. Managing chronic diseases is a continuous process that requires relationship-based care, which lies at the core of both professions. For example, a nurse may successfully teach a diabetic patient how to self-administer injections skillfully, but the role of the social worker remains crucial in addressing the issue of “food insecurity,” which may prevent the patient from adhering to the required diet. This illustrates that the success of medical treatment is contingent upon social intervention (Ambrose-Miller & Ashcroft, 2016).

Therefore, the importance of providing comprehensive scientific and professional preparation for the medical social worker through specialized institutes and academic departments becomes evident, along with the availability of personal readiness and professional motivation among practitioners of this profession. Such preparation is considered a fundamental prerequisite for enabling the social worker to achieve the desired objectives of their professional role, which include helping the patient reach the best possible level of health, supporting the medical team in delivering therapeutic services efficiently and effectively, contributing to the study of cases facing treatment difficulties, and enabling patients to optimally benefit from the health services provided to them (Al-Hamayel, 2017).

2- Study Problem

Integrating social work services within health care facilities is considered a fundamental component in responding to the diverse and complex needs of patients and their families, as social workers contribute to providing comprehensive professional support that addresses the social and psychological aspects associated with illness (McCoyd et al., 2016).

The social worker plays a pivotal role within multidisciplinary health care teams by providing targeted counseling interventions that help patients cope with the challenges they face throughout the various stages of their treatment journey (Reeves et al., 2011). Given the multiplicity and interconnection of these challenges, the importance of assessing levels of satisfaction with social work interventions emerges as a key entry point for improving the quality of patient care and enhancing positive health outcomes (Dobrof et al., 2019).

Health care providers play a central role in medical institutions of various types, such as hospitals, health centers, clinics, and care homes. Their responsibilities extend beyond the provision of medical treatment to include psychological and social support, educating patients and their families, and coordinating with multidisciplinary teams to ensure the delivery of comprehensive and effective care that meets patients’ medical, psychological, and social needs. The work of health care providers is characterized by direct interaction with patients, making them essential elements in building relationships based on trust and effective communication, which are necessary components for ensuring health care quality and enhancing patient satisfaction (Suweidan, 2020).

Social workers also contribute to bridging the gap between traditional medical interventions and the broader social and emotional needs of patients and their families, thereby enhancing the comprehensiveness of the health care provided (McCoyd et al., 2016). Their professional expertise lies in dealing with the psychological and social factors affecting patients’ health, guiding them toward appropriate community resources, and advocating for their rights within health institutions. This is positively reflected in the overall well-being of individuals benefiting from health care services (McGregor et al., 2018). Through this integrated support that goes beyond the scope of purely medical treatment, social workers play an active role in improving the quality and effectiveness of patient care and enhancing the overall health care experience (Stanhope & Straussner, 2017).

Studies indicate that providing integrated health care requires close collaboration between nursing and social work teams to ensure balanced fulfillment of patients’ medical, social, and psychological needs. Despite recognition of the importance of this integration, many health care institutions face challenges in implementing it effectively, which may affect the quality of health care and patient satisfaction.

Accordingly, the study problem is crystallized in the following main research question:

What is the role of integration between nursing and social work in improving health care outcomes in the city of Riyadh?

This main question is subdivided into the following sub-questions:

1. What is the level of communication and coordination between nursing and social work in health care institutions in the city of Riyadh?
2. What is the role of integration between nursing and social work in providing psychological and social support to patients?
3. What is the impact of integration between nursing and social work on the quality of health care and treatment outcomes?
4. What is the level of knowledge and professional skills among social workers and nurses that supports integrative practice?
5. What are the most prominent obstacles that limit the effectiveness of integration between nursing and social work in improving health care outcomes?
6. What proposals contribute to enhancing the role of integration between nursing and social work in health care institutions?

Study Objectives

The study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. To identify the level of communication and coordination between nursing and social work in health care institutions.
2. To determine the role of integration between nursing and social work in providing psychological and social support to patients.
3. To examine the impact of integration between nursing and social work on the quality of health care and treatment effectiveness.
4. To measure the level of knowledge and professional skills among social workers and nurses in the field of integrative practice.
5. To identify the most prominent challenges and obstacles facing integration between nursing and social work.
6. To reach practical proposals to enhance integration between nursing and social work in a manner that contributes to improving health care outcomes.

Importance of the Study

Theoretical Importance:

- Enhancing knowledge about the impact of integration between nursing and social work on the quality of health care.
- Enriching the scientific literature regarding professional relationships among multidisciplinary health care teams and their effect on treatment outcomes.
- Bridging the research gap related to the role of social workers and nurses in improving health care outcomes through integrated collaboration.

Applied Importance:

- Providing health care teams with practical approaches to enhance cooperation between nursing and social work in a way that improves the patient experience.
- Developing training programs to strengthen communication and coordination skills among multidisciplinary teams.
- Offering practical recommendations to health care institutions to enhance the role of integration between nursing and social work in improving health care outcomes and raising patient satisfaction levels.

Study Objectives:

This study aims to:

1. Identify the role of integration between nursing and social work in improving the quality of health care.
2. Determine the strategies and methods adopted by social workers and nurses to enhance cooperation and coordination.
3. Examine the impact of this integration on treatment outcomes and patient satisfaction.

4. Provide practical proposals to enhance integration between nursing and social work in health care institutions.

Study Concepts:

Social Worker:

The medical social worker is defined as one of the specialists in the field of social work, academically and professionally qualified to work within health and medical institutions such as hospitals and health centers. Their primary role focuses on providing social and psychological support to patients and their families, contributing to improving their treatment experience and enhancing the quality of health care provided to them (Al-Qahtani et al., 2023).

Health Care Providers:

Health care providers are defined as individuals or specialized entities responsible for delivering medical services and health care in its various forms, with the aim of promoting health, preventing diseases, diagnosing them, treating them, and rehabilitating patients to improve their quality of life. This term includes a wide range of integrated professions and roles, such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, physical therapists, medical technicians, in addition to administrators and workers in health care facilities (Ross et al., 2022).

The World Health Organization defines the quality of health care as the extent to which health services provided to individuals and populations increase the likelihood of achieving desired health outcomes, provided that these services are based on professional knowledge supported by scientific evidence. This makes quality of care an essential and indispensable element for achieving universal health coverage. Health care quality includes several key dimensions, most notably efficiency, effectiveness, safety, accessibility of services, and responsiveness to patients' needs and expectations. Health care quality is also closely linked to health performance assessment and measuring the ability of health institutions to achieve continuous improvement goals and develop the services provided (World Health Organization, 2021).

Theoretical Framework:

The objectives of medical social work are represented in achieving multiple dimensions of health care, including preventive, therapeutic, and rehabilitative aspects. It seeks to support patients and address various challenges associated with illness (Fahimi, 2016). The most prominent of these objectives include:

1. Assisting patients in accepting their illness and dealing with it realistically, thereby enhancing their ability to adapt to their health condition.
2. Facilitating patients' access to appropriate therapeutic services in line with their health needs and individual circumstances.
3. Strengthening the role of the family and involving it in the treatment plan to ensure continuous psychological and social support for the patient.
4. Reducing economic or family problems that may hinder the treatment process or affect patient adherence to it.
5. Contributing to empowering patients to regain their social roles and practice daily life normally.

Importance of Social Work:

The importance of medical social work within health care institutions is evident in its role as a link between the patient and the health care system. It views illness not merely as a purely medical condition, but as a human phenomenon with intertwined psychological, social, and economic dimensions. From this perspective, the success of treatment is not limited to pharmacological or medical interventions alone, but requires professional intervention that helps remove social barriers that may prevent patient adherence to the treatment plan or reintegration into daily life. Accordingly, medical social work is considered one of the fundamental pillars of the integrated health care system (Al-Zahrani, 2019).

Roles of the Medical Social Worker:

The medical social worker undertakes a set of integrated professional roles that contribute to achieving comprehensive health care. These roles can be summarized as follows (Al-Husseini, 2018):

- **Preventive Role:** Involves spreading health awareness among patients and the community, and providing education on methods of preventing diabetes and reducing its complications.
- **Therapeutic Role:** Focuses on helping patients adapt to the psychological and social effects associated with illness during different stages of treatment, thereby enhancing their treatment response.
- **Rehabilitative Role:** Concerned with supporting patients in regaining their ability to carry out daily life activities normally after stabilization of their health condition, and enhancing their social integration.
- **Coordinative Role:** Includes continuous coordination between the medical team, patients, and their families to ensure integration of professional efforts and improvement of the quality of health services provided.
- **Guidance and Empowerment Role:** Aims to educate patients about their health rights, develop their decision-making abilities, and empower them to manage their health affairs independently and effectively.

General Practice Skills of Social Work in the Medical Field:

General practice skills are considered among the essential foundations relied upon by the social worker in the medical field, as they enable effective professional interaction with different systems at various levels. The most important of these skills can be classified according to the following dimensions (Yali, 2018):

First: General Professional Practice Skills

These are skills used by the social worker as a general practitioner in dealing with different systems, whether individuals, groups, or communities. They include situation assessment, identifying the initial system of intervention and target systems, conducting professional contracting, setting intervention goals, selecting appropriate intervention methods and strategies, implementing agreed-upon intervention plans, choosing suitable professional intervention models, and professionally terminating the intervention.

Second: General Practice Skills at the Micro Level (Small Level)

This level involves direct interaction with the client and their family and requires professional skills such as conducting professional interviews, building professional relationships, using verbal and non-verbal communication skills, professional observation, conducting social assessments, accurately identifying problems, selecting relevant information, collecting facts related to the problem, conducting professional evaluation, active listening, helping clients recognize their problems, utilizing available resources, referring cases when necessary, and documenting individual cases.

Third: General Practice Skills at the Mezzo Level (Intermediate Level)

This level relates to working with small and large groups and requires skills such as group formation, helping groups organize themselves, understanding group dynamics, managing group discussions, utilizing relationships within the group, using institutional functions and resources, assisting groups in implementing and evaluating programs, and professional documentation at the mezzo level.

Fourth: General Practice Skills at the Macro Level (Large Level)

This level includes working with organizations, local communities, and social policies, and requires advanced skills such as decision-making, influencing decision-makers, utilizing available budgets, designing social projects, using research in planning and development, identifying community leadership, confrontation, persuasion, and negotiation skills, in addition to professional documentation at the macro level.

The Vital Role of the Medical Social Worker: Between Therapeutic Integration and Care Support

According to the study by (Mesca & Storage, 2025), social workers in hospitals play a pivotal role that goes beyond merely providing assistance. A fundamental distinction emerges between the medical social worker and traditional social assistance services in terms of the nature of intervention and the methodology adopted. While the hospital-based social worker focuses on providing comprehensive and integrated support in coordination with the medical team to meet patients' complex needs and ensure a smooth transition back into the community after discharge, traditional social assistance (care) services are limited to providing immediate material and financial support without long-term personalized intervention plans.

This differentiation in the level of complexity and customization of interventions highlights the medical social worker as a strategic component in the recovery journey. It is also noted that this role varies globally, as some countries provide only traditional social care services without activating the integrated medical social work role.

Previous Studies

The study by (Al-Shahri & Al-Shahrani, 2025) aimed to identify the extent to which medical social workers adhere to the assessment process as one of the general practice processes of social work in the medical field. To verify this, the researchers used the descriptive approach through a study applied to a sample of 106 individuals from the study population, consisting of medical social workers working in the city of Jeddah, whose total number was 110 medical social workers. The study reached several results, most notably that social workers demonstrated constant adherence to data collection during assessment, constant practice in identifying problem priorities and objectives during assessment, and constant adherence to the contracting process during assessment.

The study by (Potharaju et al., 2025) aimed to identify the main factors shaping patients' experiences with social care services provided within health care environments. The study adopted a qualitative approach by conducting 30 semi-structured interviews between September 2023 and February 2024 with participants aged 18 years and older who spoke English or Spanish and had received social care services in a health care institution within the previous twelve months.

The results showed that patients' experiences are shaped by two primary dimensions of social care delivery: the functional dimension and the relational dimension. Participants emphasized the importance of operational or functional aspects, such as screening procedures, resource linkage, and follow-up, as influential elements of their experience. The findings also confirmed that relational factors—such as demonstrating empathy, positive perception of the objectives of social screening, language concordance, and continuity of the relationship with the health care team—play a pivotal role in shaping patient experiences. The study concluded that human interactions and professional relationships with social care providers represent a core element in evaluating patient experiences, emphasizing the necessity for social care quality measures to consider both functional and relational dimensions.

The study by (Mesca & Storage, 2025) aimed to explore the pivotal role played by the social worker within the hospital environment, focusing on their fundamental contribution to improving the overall patient experience and enhancing the health care pathway. The study relied on an in-depth analysis of the tasks and responsibilities of hospital social workers, demonstrating that their presence and professional interventions are indispensable in meeting patients' multiple social, emotional, and practical needs.

The study used data derived from patients' social records during the period from 2021 to 2023 to analyze social workers' activities, including emotional support, service coordination, needs assessment and treatment planning, patient advocacy, and child protection tasks. The results showed that hospital social work activities are not only necessary but are also increasing significantly to keep pace with the growing needs of patients and their families in complex hospital environments. The study concluded that the social worker represents a fundamental pillar in promoting integrated health and overall patient well-being, emphasizing that close collaboration between the social worker and the medical team is a decisive factor in addressing the multiple challenges patients may face during their treatment journey within the hospital.

The study by (Al Shehri et al., 2024) aimed to identify the nature and diversity of social services provided to patients attending primary health care centers in the city of Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, considering social services as an essential component of primary health care procedures and their role in improving the quality of health services. The study included patients who received social services from social service units in primary health care centers. Frequency distributions and percentages were used to describe the characteristics of the study sample and the services provided. The results showed that social service units provided services to 411 patients, of whom 60% were married and 80% were widowed, while 17% were illiterate. It was also found that 66% of patients had housing adapted to their health condition and family needs. The results indicated that the level of family support was moderate for 46.22% of patients and good for 40.14%, while the level of attachment to the surrounding environment reached 42.10%. Regarding health status, 51.6% of patients suffered from chronic diseases, 49% experienced anxiety, and 67% were of low income. In terms of services provided, 53.5% of patients received financial assistance, 68.6% received procedural services, and 31% received other services including counseling and social support. The study concluded that social work programs in primary health care centers represent a pivotal element in the health care system, as they contribute to improving health service quality and enhancing patient access through counseling and financial support, in addition to raising family awareness of patients' health conditions and their determinants, reflecting the social responsibility of primary health care centers toward patients, families, and the community.

Commentary on Previous Studies and Areas of Similarity and Difference

Previous studies demonstrated diversity in their objectives and methodologies; however, all emphasized the pivotal role of the social worker in improving patient experience and enhancing the quality of health care.

Areas of Similarity

1. Pivotal role of the social worker: All studies indicate that the social worker represents a core element in the health care system through providing psychological and social support, coordinating services, and improving interaction between patients and the medical team.
2. Interaction with patients and medical teams: All studies emphasized the importance of professional relationships and continuous communication between social workers, patients, and medical teams as a key factor in improving care quality and patient satisfaction.
3. Professional commitment: The studies demonstrated social workers' adherence to professional procedures and methodological practices, including data collection, problem prioritization, and intervention planning (Al-Shahri & Al-Shahrani, 2025).

Areas of Difference

• In terms of objectives:

- Al-Shahri & Al-Shahrani (2025): evaluating social workers' adherence to the professional assessment process in the medical field.
- Potharaju et al. (2025): identifying factors influencing patient experiences with social care services in health care environments.
- Mesca & Storace (2025): exploring the general role of the social worker in hospitals and analyzing their activities and responsibilities.
- Al Shehri et al. (2024): examining the diversity of social services provided to patients in primary health care centers.

• In terms of methodology and tools:

- Al-Shahri & Al-Shahrani (2025): descriptive approach using a questionnaire directed at medical social workers in Jeddah.
- Potharaju et al. (2025): qualitative approach using 30 semi-structured interviews with patients receiving social services in health care institutions in the United States.
- Mesca & Storace (2025): analysis of patient records in hospitals from 2021 to 2023, focusing on evaluating professional activities of social workers.

○ Al Shehri et al. (2024): statistical analysis using frequency distributions and percentages.

• **In terms of setting and sample:**

○ Jeddah: 106 medical social workers out of 110.

○ United States: adult patients receiving social care services.

○ Italian hospitals: analysis of patient records over three years.

○ Riyadh primary health care centers: 411 patients receiving diverse social services.

• **In terms of results:**

○ Al-Shahri & Al-Shahrani (2025): consistent adherence to data collection, prioritization, and professional contracting during assessment.

○ Potharaju et al. (2025): patient experience shaped by functional (screening, resource linkage, follow-up) and relational (empathy, language concordance, continuity) dimensions.

○ Mesca & Storage (2025): social workers provide emotional support, coordinate services, and plan treatment, enhancing patient health and well-being, particularly in complex cases.

○ Al Shehri et al. (2024): 53.5% of patients received financial assistance, 68.6% procedural services, and 31% counseling and social support, reflecting the vital role of social work in improving care quality and access.

Despite differences in objectives, methodologies, tools, and samples, all studies confirm that social workers play a pivotal role in improving patient experience and health care outcomes, and that interaction between professional and relational dimensions represents a key factor in the success of social work interventions in health care settings

Methodological Procedures of the Study

Field Study Methodology

Introduction:

The field study methodology aimed to identify the study population and its sample, as well as the method of sample selection. The researcher relied on the random sampling method within the specific time frame of the study. The researcher also relied on distributing the questionnaire electronically as a preliminary step to measuring the reliability of the instrument.

The field study focused on identifying the measurement of integration between nursing and social work in improving health care outcomes. In an effort to answer the study questions, a set of statistical methods was used through the SPSS program. Accordingly, this chapter was divided as follows:

- Study population and sample
- Data collection method
- Statistical analysis methods used
- Reliability testing of questionnaire items
- Results of testing the study questions

Study Population and Sample:

The study population consists of social workers, nurses, and health care providers in private hospitals in Riyadh. Since the study was applied to a specific geographical area and its private hospitals, during a specific period of time, in addition to the difficulty of fully enumerating the study population, the researcher relied on a purposive simple random sample to determine the sample size. Within this framework, the sample was determined to be 40 respondents, divided into 20 social workers and 20 nurses.

Data Collection Method:

The researcher prepared the questionnaire using the Google Drive platform and created an electronic link for it. This link was distributed and published on social media platforms of private hospitals in the city of Riyadh. A total of 40 valid and completed questionnaires were collected. The researcher used the five-point Likert scale to apply weighted scores to responses and to achieve

flexibility in evaluating the relative weight of each variable as a primary input for inference and statistical testing of the hypotheses of the field study.

Statistical Analysis Methods Used:

In order to test the study hypotheses, a set of data analysis methods was selected through the use of a package of statistical methods specific to the social sciences, known as the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). These methods included:

1. Reliability measurement methods to verify the degree of reliability and consistency of the multi-item scales used in the statistical analysis of the questionnaire, and the extent to which the results can be generalized to the study population, using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient.
2. Descriptive statistical analysis methods, represented by the arithmetic mean and standard deviation, to measure the level of respondents' answers to the statements of the study dimensions.
3. Simple regression analysis, due to its ability to determine the effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable.

Reliability Testing of Questionnaire Items

The Cronbach's Alpha correlation coefficient method was applied to verify the degree of internal consistency and reliability at the overall level of the study dimensions (four dimensions comprising 32 items). Prior to conducting this analysis, it was decided to exclude any variable that obtained a coefficient of less than 0.6 at a confidence level of 95%, as shown in the following table:

Table No. (1) Results of the Reliability Test

Dimension	Number of Item	Cronbach's Alpha
Communication and Coordination among Health Care Teams	8	0.870
Psychological and Social Support for Patients	8	0.841
Quality of Health Care and Treatment Outcomes	8	0.935
Professional Knowledge and Skills of Social Workers and Nurses	8	0.906
Total	32	0.963

It is evident from the previous Table No. (1) that the results of the reliability analysis using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient for the variables as a whole amounted to 0.963, which is an indicator of a high level of reliability. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient obtained reflects a high degree of confidence/reliability in the measures used in social research and demonstrates a high level of internal consistency among its contents. This indicates the high reliability of the questionnaire content according to the views of the study sample, and accordingly, it can be relied upon in the stages of statistical analysis of this study.

Results of Testing the Study Questions:

The researcher used both the arithmetic mean (as a measure of central tendency) and the standard deviation (as a measure of dispersion) in order to identify the general trend of the study sample's responses regarding the main dimensions of the study.

Table No. (2) Statistical Description of the Items of the Study Dimensions

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Rating
Information is exchanged between nursing staff and social services on a regular and organized basis.	3.65	1.42	Agree

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Rating
There are joint meetings to discuss and update patients' care plans.	4.08	0.80	Agree
All recommendations and interventions are documented in shared patient records.	3.73	0.96	Agree
Procedures are coordinated between nursing staff and social workers before making any important treatment decisions.	3.83	1.11	Agree
Social workers and nurses participate in setting individualized care goals for each patient.	3.68	1.05	Agree
Electronic systems or formal mechanisms are used to facilitate communication between healthcare teams.	4.20	0.79	Agree
Patients feel that the medical team is integrated and cooperative in providing care.	3.90	1.01	Agree
Healthcare teams have access to patients' social and psychological information when needed for care decisions.	3.70	1.16	Agree
Total	3.84	0.74	Agree
Question 1: What is the level of communication and coordination among healthcare teams?			
The social worker contributes to providing continuous psychological support to patients.	4.13	0.94	Agree
The medical team works to meet patients' social needs in cooperation with the social worker.	4.03	0.86	Agree
Patients' families are involved in the care plan to ensure continuous family support.	3.85	0.95	Agree
The social worker guides patients toward available community resources to support them after discharge.	4.10	0.84	Agree
The multidisciplinary team provides guidance and counseling to help patients adapt to illness.	3.78	1.03	Agree
Social worker interventions contribute to reducing patients' levels of anxiety and stress.	4.03	0.95	Agree
Patients' psychological and social conditions are periodically assessed by the medical and social services team.	3.98	0.89	Agree
Patients feel continuous psychological and social support during the treatment period.	3.83	0.87	Agree
Total	3.96	0.77	Agree
Question 2: What is the level of psychological and social support provided to patients?			
Integration between nursing and social services improves the effectiveness of medical treatment.	3.73	0.88	Agree

Collaboration among healthcare teams helps improve patients' adherence to treatment plans.	3.80	0.99	Agree
Integration among teams is reflected in patients' satisfaction with the level of healthcare services provided.	3.98	0.86	Agree
Cooperation between nursing staff and social services contributes to reducing complications or health problems.	3.85	1.00	Agree
The medical team is able to provide more comprehensive care as a result of coordination with the social worker.	3.70	1.11	Agree
Team integration improves the patient experience during hospitalization or follow-up in healthcare centers.	4.08	0.83	Agree
Patients feel that their physical, psychological, and social needs are met in an integrated manner.	3.88	0.97	Agree
Integration between nursing and social services leads to better health outcomes for patients.	3.43	1.15	Agree
Total	3.80	0.82	Agree
Question 3: What is the level of healthcare quality and treatment outcomes?			
Members of the medical team have sufficient knowledge of each other's roles in the integration between nursing and social services.	3.65	1.10	Agree
Effective communication skills are applied between social workers and nurses to improve the patient experience.	3.85	0.83	Agree
The team knows how to use social resources appropriately to support patients.	3.70	0.82	Agree
Social workers and nurses apply professional strategies to enhance interaction between patients and the medical team.	3.90	0.81	Agree
The team is able to jointly manage complex cases to ensure comprehensive care.	4.10	0.84	Agree
Team skills are continuously developed to keep pace with patient needs and healthcare challenges.	3.83	0.87	Agree
Social workers and nurses participate in making informed professional decisions based on comprehensive assessment of patient needs.	3.83	0.81	Agree
The team demonstrates the ability to solve social and medical problems collaboratively to enhance quality of care.	3.88	1.02	Agree
Total	3.84	0.72	Agree
Question 4: What is the level of professional knowledge and skills of social workers and nurses?			

Table (2) illustrates the results of the general trend of the study sample's responses regarding the first question: What is the level of communication and coordination among health care teams? The respondents' opinions showed a general tendency toward agreement with this question, with a mean score of (3.84) and a standard deviation of (0.74).

Regarding the second question: What is the level of psychological and social support provided to patients? The respondents' opinions showed a general tendency toward agreement with this question, with a mean score of (3.96) and a standard deviation of (0.77).

As for the third question: What is the level of health care quality and treatment outcomes? The respondents' opinions showed a general tendency toward agreement with this question, with a mean score of (3.80) and a standard deviation of (0.82).

Regarding the fourth question: What is the level of professional knowledge and skills of social workers and nurses? The respondents' opinions showed a general tendency toward agreement with this question, with a mean score of (3.84) and a standard deviation of (0.82).

The Sixth Question:

Is there an effect of integration between nursing and social work on improving the quality of health care?

To answer this question, the researcher multiplied the mean scores of the study sample's responses for the two dimensions of communication and coordination among health care teams and psychological and social support for patients to provide a statistical expression of integration between them. Subsequently, the simple regression analysis method was used to examine the effect of this integration as an independent variable on health care quality and treatment outcomes as the dependent variable. The simple regression test was applied at a significance level of 0.05, and the researcher presents below the results of this analysis using the Enter method.

Model Testing and Its Explanatory Power

Table No. (3) Correlation and Determination Coefficients

Adjusted Coefficient of Determination	Coefficient of Determination	Simple Correlation Coefficient
0.763	0.769	0.877

With regard to the explanatory power of this model, which indicates the proportion of the total variation in the dependent variable explained by the independent variable, Table No. (3) shows that the simple correlation coefficient between the independent variable reached (0.877), while the adjusted coefficient of determination reached (0.769). This means that the independent variable explains (76.9%) of the total variation in the dependent variable, while the remaining percentage (23.1%) is attributed to random error in the equation.

Significance Test of the Independent Variable

Table No. (4) Effect of Integration Between Nursing and Social Work on Improving Health Care Quality

Independent Variable	B (Regression Coefficient)	Standard Error	Standardized Coefficient (Beta)	Calculated T-value	Significance Level (p-value)
Constant	2.045	0.169	—	12.086	0.000
Nursing * Social Work	0.144	0.010	0.877	11.240	0.000

The statistical results of the t-test, as shown in Table No. (4), confirmed that the independent variable related to integration between nursing and social work has a statistically significant effect on improving the quality of health care at a significance level of less than (0.05).

- The results of the previous statistical tests also confirm that there is a statistically significant effect of integration between nursing and social work on improving the quality of health care.

Summary of the Field Study Results:

✓ The results of the field study revealed the awareness and understanding of the study sample regarding integration between nursing and social work in improving the quality of health care. The respondents showed a general tendency toward agreement with the communication and coordination

among health care teams dimension, with a mean score of 3.84. The psychological and social support for patients dimension also showed a general tendency toward agreement, with a mean score of 3.96. The dimensions of health care quality and treatment outcomes and professional knowledge and skills of social workers and nurses showed a general tendency toward agreement, with mean scores of 3.80 and 3.84, respectively.

✓ The existence of integration between nursing and social work in improving the quality of health care was also confirmed, as follows:

- There is a statistically significant effect of this integration, explaining a change of 76.9% in improving the quality of health care, with an adjusted correlation coefficient of 0.769.

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