



# Relationship Between Ethical Sensitivity and the Nurses' Quality of Care: A Systematic Review

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** To provide high-quality care, nurses face many ethical issues requiring ethical abilities in their professional practice. Moral sensitivity is the first step in moral practice. This study aims to determine the relationship between ethical sensitivity and the nurses' quality of care.

**Search Strategy:** The protocol of the systematic review followed the PRISMA guideline. All articles related to the study's objective, published until January 6, 2024, were examined. Searching international and internal databases such as PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, ScienceDirect, ProQuest, Google Scholar, Cochrane Library, IranMedex, IranDoc, and Magiran were done with keywords "Moral Sensitivity," "Nursing Ethics," "Quality of Care," "Nurses." The inclusion criteria include descriptive studies in Persian or English that have access to their full texts, and the exclusion criteria include interventional studies, case reports, letters to the editor, and conference papers.

**Results:** After conducting the initial search, 430 studies were potentially obtained, which were reduced to 35 studies by examining the titles and abstracts; finally, by reading the full texts of the articles, 15 studies entered the final review. The results of the reviewed studies show that moral sensitivity is one of the predicting factors of the quality of nursing care, and there is a significant positive relationship between their total scores.

**Conclusion and Discussion:** The results of the present study showed that promoting moral sensitivity among nurses can effectively improve the quality of nursing care. Therefore, it is recommended that periodic training programs be organized to teach ethical principles in clinical environments to enhance moral sensitivity and, as a result, the quality of patient care.

**Keywords:** Morals, Nursing ethics, Systematic review

