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What are delegatable tasks? A result from motion analysis of tracheal suctioning

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[Purpose] Caring for children with severe motor and intellectual disabilities (SMIDS) with medical devices could be a major burden for the family members. Some family members fall into burnout syndrome and their children have to stay special need institution longer, separating from their family regardless of their intension. In 2005, Japanese Nursing Association produced a manual about provision of limited medical care for teachers at special need schools, and actually authorized teachers to do suctioning for children with endo tracheal tubes. Limited to do suctioning up to pharynx area by this manual, however, the special school teachers are struggling to provide efficient suctioning for their students. Focusing on tracheal suctioning, this research aims to extract techniques of experienced nurses for safe delegation.

[Method] The movements of four nurses in two institutions were video-taped and verbalized as they provide suctioning techniques. ICNP[®] version 1.0 was referred for word selection. The verbalized data was categorized according to content similarity. As for ethical consideration, written agreement form was obtained before research commencement.

[Result] 311 motion was found. Five inter-related themes were subdivided and then named: Assessment, Provision of nursing techniques, Fundamental knowledge as a professional, Nursing Management, and Education. There are three level of medical cares which are: need to be provided by licensed nurses due to the laws, require training beforehand of care provision, and do not require any education that is already provided as activity of daily living at home-settings.

[Conclusion] This standard might help nurses to decide if the medical care is delegatable to the teachers at special need schools. Consequently, it will increase the amount of manpower due to the increase of accessible people around children with SMIDS, in addition to protection of professional identity of nurses at special need schools.