

# Contemporary Nursing as a Dynamic Response to Evolving Health Challenges

Saldy Yusuf<sup>1,\*</sup>

Received August 15, 2025

Revised August 16, 2025

Accepted August 17, 2025

Available online August 17, 2025

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Nursing, Hasanuddin University, Makassar, Indonesia

\*corresponding author: [saldy\\_yusuf@unhas.ac.id](mailto:saldy_yusuf@unhas.ac.id)

The concepts of nurse and nursing are inherently interwoven, representing distinct yet inseparable dimensions that are unified by the universal principle of *caring*. Caring for humanity must be delivered through a holistic approach, wherein therapeutic communication emerges as a defining characteristic of nursing practice. This form of communication serves not only as a therapeutic intervention in fostering interpersonal relationships with patients but also as a vital bridge in collaboration with other healthcare professionals. Within this framework, nurses are ethically and professionally obligated to provide care that is both evidence-based and holistic, while upholding the principles of responsibility and accountability in every intervention they deliver.

In contrast, the nursing profession is experiencing significant evolution, adapting to the swiftly changing challenges of contemporary society, including alterations in disease patterns, transformations within healthcare systems, and the emergence of new perspectives from patients and inter-professional collaborators. These changes were both external and internal. At present, nursing must undergo a transformation to remain relevant and responsive to contemporary issues (Oe, 2024). This process necessitates updates to the education system, competency development, and evidence-based practice. Nurses are required to engage in lifelong learning, while nursing organizations are encouraged to establish systems that are adaptive, efficient, and oriented toward quality services.

In this context, contemporary nursing extends beyond the mere notion of "nursing in the present day" to represent an ongoing process that transcends temporal boundaries. It is a dynamic journey that navigates between the personal and professional dimensions, balancing the internal demands of the profession with external pressures from society and the global health system. Rather than being static, it constitutes a reflective space continuously shaped by social, technological, cultural and policy dynamics. Contemporary nursing issues arise in multiple ways. Internally, challenges include job dissatisfaction, burnout, an imperfect career ladder system, and the need for more relevant education and training. Externally, challenges manifest in the form of nursing practice in conflict and war situations, the implications of care for an aging population (longevity), and the increasing need for promotive and preventive strategies against chronic metabolic diseases. This illustrates that contemporary nursing is not solely about "what is happening," but rather "how we respond to it." The strategic value of nursing lies not only in providing care within a clinical context, but also in shaping the direction and ethics of healthcare services as a whole.

The conceptual framework of nursing care serves as a robust foundation to develop a comprehensive roadmap for contemporary nursing research. Numerous contemporary issues arise in the domain of diabetic foot research, which we are actively engaged in. These include various aspects of nursing assessment, such as the knowledge of nursing students (Sari et al., 2022), the baseline status of diabetic foot within the community (Hasanah et al., 2020), alternative diabetic foot assessment techniques (Basir et al., 2020; Bubun et al., 2023), and advanced diabetic foot assessment methodologies (Jasmin et al., 2023; Sandi et al., 2020). Similar considerations extend to the domains of nursing diagnosis, intervention, and evaluation. In this regard, ICON Journal serves as a vital conduit for scholarly dissemination, fostering dialogue between researchers and practitioners and advancing the development of evidence-based approaches to address the complex challenges confronting contemporary nursing practice.

## References

- Basir, I. S., Syam, Y., Yusuf, S., & Sandi, S. (2020). Accuracy of Ipswich Touch Test (IpTT) to detect small fiber neuropathy and large fiber neuropathy as a risk factor of diabetic foot ulcers in public health centers. *Enfermería Clínica*, 30, 308–312. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.ENFCLI.2019.07.108>
- Bubun, J., Yusuf, S., Syam, Y., Hidayat, W., & Majid, S. (2023). Validity and Reliability Diabetic Foot Check-up as a Simple Screening Test of Diabetic Foot Ulcers in a Community. *The International Journal of Lower Extremity Wounds*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15347346231178181>
- Hasanah, U., Yusuf, S., Rachmawaty, R., Mukhtar, M., & Sandi, S. (2020). Differences in foot care practice between participants at risk for and with diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs) in community. *Enfermería Clínica*, 30, 144–148. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.ENFCLI.2019.10.010>
- Jasmin, M., Yusuf, S., Syahrul, S., & Abrar, E. A. (2023). Validity and Reliability of a Vibration-Based Cell Phone in Detecting Peripheral Neuropathy among Patients with a Risk of Diabetic Foot Ulcer. *The International Journal of Lower Extremity Wounds*, 22(4), 687–694. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15347346211037411>
- Oe, M. (2024). Nursing Research Contributes to Changes in Clinical Practice. *Indonesian Contemporary Nursing Journal (ICON Journal)*, 9(1), 8–10. <https://doi.org/10.20956/ICON.V9I1.36809>
- Sandi, S., Yusuf, S., Kaelan, C., & Mukhtar, M. (2020). Evaluation risk of diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs) using infrared thermography based on mobile phone as advanced risk assessment tool in the community setting: A multisite cross-sectional study. *Enfermería Clínica*, 30, 453–457. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.ENFCLI.2019.07.136>
- Sari, Y., Upoyo, A. S., Sumeru, A., Yusuf, S., Haryanto, Nuriya, & Taufik, A. (2022). Nursing students' knowledge and attitude toward diabetic ulcer care and their contributing factors in Indonesia. *International Journal of Nursing Sciences*, 9(4), 496–503. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.IJNSS.2022.09.013>