Future of nursing: As architects of care for an ageing population

A veteran nurse has seen how nursing has evolved over the decades, from basic nursing duties to redesigning hospital wards so nurses spend less time walking and more time by patients’ bedside. The next phase: nurses managing care for ageing patients in the community.

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The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has slowed the rate of retirement and retraining of healthcare workers, including nurses. This is no reason why more people are not entering nursing careers.

As a nurse myself, I see this as a golden opportunity for those who can benefit from the skills and the training that nurses have.

In the past, nurses were often perceived as the primary care providers, and the role of the nurse was to follow orders and be a messenger between the doctor and patient. However, nurses today are much more involved in decision-making processes and the delivery of care.

In the future, nurses will be involved in designing hospital wards that are more patient-friendly, and in developing care plans that are tailored to individual patients.

Nurses also have a role in managing the flow of patients in the hospital, and in ordering drugs and supplies. They will be involved in the design of the hospital environment, and in the development of care plans that are tailored to individual patients.

As the population ages, nurses will need to be more attuned to the needs of the elderly and the frail. They will need to be trained in geriatric care, and in the management of chronic diseases.

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