Introduction

Developing standards provide direction for quality nursing care. Nursing standards specify nursing practice and represent the content of excellent nursing. Central nervous system infections remain the challenging diseases to treat and care. Children affected with CNS infections impose a substantial burden on the health care system. Developing standards provide a direction for nursing personnel in ensuring comprehensive nursing care for children with CNS infections.

The present study aimed at developing nursing standards in care of children with CNS infections and conducted with the Objectives (1) To develop and implement nursing standards for the care of children with central nervous system infection. (2) To assess and compare the knowledge and performance of the nursing personnel before and after implementing standards. (3) To assess and compare the performance of nursing personnel before and after implementing standards for caring for children with central nervous system infections. (4) To determine the association between the selected demographic variables and knowledge of nursing personnel caring for children with central nervous system infections.

Methods

The study adopted pre experimental, one group pre test and post test design. The main study was conducted in paediatric wards of selected hospital, Hyderabad, A.P after obtaining ethical clearance and administrative permission. The sample was 30 Nurses selected with
total enumeration technique and 70 Children admitted with CNS infections during the data collection period. The tools used to collect data were performance check list and knowledge questionnaire. The tools were validated by experts. Performance checklist reliability $r = 0.91$ and knowledge questionnaire was $r = 0.82$. A total of 2940 observations were done on seven standards in three shifts. Data collection was done from September 2012 to January 2013 according to the prepared observational schedule. Three observations were done on each child in three shifts. Knowledge questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge of nursing personnel with regard to standards on CNS infections.

**Results**

The study findings revealed increase in the post-test knowledge scores $p<.05$. The performance percentage of standards 1 to 7 before and after implementation were: 80.93% and 90.90%; 72.76% and 92.92%; 67.34% and 89.68%; 100% and 100%; 93.49% and 98.50%; 58.55% and 86.82%; 30.42% and 51.46% respectively. Variance was observed among standards between three shifts before implementation. It was higher in the evening followed by morning and night and after implementation it was higher in the morning shift followed by evening and night shifts $p<.001$.

**Conclusion**

Implementation of standards regarding CNS infections for nursing personnel was effective in improving the performance and enhancing knowledge of nurses. The findings imply that the nursing administrators should organize awareness sessions for nurses on standards and ensure audit and take steps to rectify the gaps in performance.