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Assessment of new graduate nurses based on Vietnam's nursing competency standards: A cooperation program between Japan and Vietnam

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Objective: The objective of this study was to assess newly graduated nurses based on the Vietnamese basic nursing competency standards.

Methods: This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in September 2015 and December 2016 with the participation of 590 nurses at 43 health facilities in Hanoi city and four provinces in Vietnam. Those nurses completed clinical practice courses at the selected health facilities after graduating from universities, colleges and medical secondary schools. A self-administered questionnaire was designed on the basis of the Vietnamese nursing competency standards and used for data collection. The study assessed three groups of indicators, including nurses' demographic characteristics (independent variables), competencies (dependent variables) and the associations between competencies and some factors. Data were entered into EpiData ver. 3.1 and then analyzed with SPSS ver. 17.0.

Results: Newly graduate nurses had a mean practice score of 58 points. Only 0.3% of the surveyed nurses met the Vietnamese basic nursing competency standards, 0.8% met the competency standards of care in nursing, 1.7% met the competency standards of occupational management and development, and 37.1% met the competency standards of legal professional practice and ethics.

Conclusion: Newly graduate nurses meeting the Vietnamese basic nursing competency standards accounted for a minimal proportion.

Biography

Phan Thi Dung has been working at Viet Duc University Hospital for 36 years, 27 years' experience in Operating Theater Nurse and 10 years of ORs Head Nurse and 8 years of Hospital Chief Nurse. Currently, she is working at Education and Training Center. She has completed her Master of Hospital Management program in 2012 and PhD of Public Health in 2016 at Hanoi University of Public Health (HUPH). She has published several articles in well-reputed journals such as *Journal of Vietnamese Studies and Nurse Education Today Journal*, *The Thai Journal of Surgical*, *British Journal of Nursing* and contributed presentations in: scientific conference in Barcelona, Spain in 2011; Nursing conference on wound care in 2014 in UK; World Congress on Nursing in 2015, Dubai, UAE and American Professional Wound Care Association 2016 Conference in Philadelphia, US.

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