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Issues of nursing continuing professional education in Iran

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With the expansion of knowledge, new technologies, tools, and procedures are developed. As chronic and degenerative conditions are growing, continuing professional education for nurses is important. On the other hand, nursing education is driven in order to provide qualitative care to patients; it should be supported by continuing professional education (CPE) aimed at ensuring the maintenance and improvement of the competencies already gained. Continuing professional education leads nurses to become familiar with new theories and evidences for practice. In other words, continuing professional education empowers nurses to provide effective, high-quality, safe guard and to feel that they are valuable, competent, and capable of best practices. Many countries have implemented mandatory continuing professional education, beginning with the USA in 1971. In Iran, the first promotional program for continuing professional education was founded as the Nurses' Career Advancement Pathway (NCAP) by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education in 2003. Participating in continuing professional education programs is one component of Iranian nurses' evaluations. Accordingly, Iranian nurses are required to spend 40–60 hours of continuing professional education in a year. This process has however faced different issues. This article addresses the issues of continuing professional education for nurses in Iran.

Biography

Parvaneh Vasli is an assistant professor in the school of nursing and midwifery, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (SBMU). She has worked some years in the pediatric nursing and maternal and child health. She has also obtained some experiences related to continuing professional education in nursing and published some papers in Iranian and international journal. She is an editor of an Iranian nursing journal.

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