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## Assessing generic nursing competencies at King Abdullah Medical City: The impact of competency training program

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**Background:** Nursing shortage caused recruitment of foreign nurses who has different educational background and different scope of practice, leading to non-standardized care and jeopardizing patient safety.

**Aim:** The aim of this descriptive study is to train and assess nurses on generic competencies that are frequently used in their areas of clinical practice.

**Method:** Train the trainer workshop was designed and conducted for six-generic competencies stations to assess 239 nurses who are engaged in the delivery of patient care at KAMC. Eighty-nine nurses were randomly selected to assess the impact of the competency training by pre-test post-test exams. At the completion of the competency assessment, participating nurses completed the competency fair satisfaction survey.

**Results:** 18% of nurses failed the “Adult Physical Assessment” competency. About 18% of nurses failed the “Medication Administration” competency. Nurses scored the highest pass rate in the “Vital Signs” competency (96.19) and “Oxygen Therapy Administration” (93.62%). There was significant differences in means of pre-test and post-test in regard to the impact of competency training. The majority of nurses (87%) reported their satisfaction with the competency fair.

**Conclusion:** Competency training and assessment in a multi-cultural institution is very paramount in standardizing patient care. Clinical educators must carry the responsibility of classifying nurses according to their competencies and plan developmental portfolio accordingly.

### Biography

Usama Saleh has completed his PhD from the University of Kentucky . He is the Director of Health Training Department at King Abdullah Medical City, Makkah, Saudi Arabia. He has published several papers in reputed journals.

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