

6th World Nursing and Healthcare Conference

August 15-17, 2016 London, UK

Competency framework for mental health nurses in the Philippines: A delphi study

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Introduction: It is stated in Article III, section 9 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9173, otherwise known as the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002, that the Professional Regulatory Board of Nursing (BON) has to maintain quality of nursing practice complying with the standards of Philippine nursing. Thus, the office of the BON is incumbent in leading to significantly promote and effectively implement the core competencies. Moreover, these competencies ensure safe quality care and maintain the integrity of nursing profession in the Philippines. In the absence of competencies for mental health nursing in the Philippines, there are only a few number of attributes to reflect competent nursing practice and effective application of theories in the actual clinical scenarios. Hence, this study determined the competencies and attributes for mental health nurses in the Philippines.

Methods: This study utilized a sequential exploratory mixed-method design through a Delphi technique. Purposive expert sampling was used in the convenience of 12 panel of experts from the National Center for Mental Health. In the first round of the study, a qualitative data collection was done through a semi-structured interview. In the second round, a questionnaire was developed using the qualitative data and integrating the 2012 Nursing Core Competency Standards and other literature. Median and Interquartile range was used to indicate their level of agreement.

Results: During the first round of the study, 101 competency statements were derived. There were a total of 62 attributes identified and were classified according to knowledge, skills, and attitude. In the second round of the study 91 competency statements were added and taken from the 2012 NCCS. 187 out of 192 competency statetement had reached consensus while 61 out of 62 attributes had reached consensus.

Conclusion: There were 187 competency statements validated by panel of experts which resulted to the development of the Mental Health Nursing Competency Framework. Furthermore, 61 attributes in terms of knowledge, skills and attitudes were identified as part of the attributes of mental health nurses.

Biography

Hannah Mae N Shi is an undergraduate nursing students from University of Santo Tomas, who will be graduating this coming June.

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