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From national to global: Recognizing excellence in nursing specialty through certification

Certification in any field is a mark of professionalism. It establishes the specialty area as a practice field. It further enables those who are certified to demonstrate their expertise and to be recognized for their excellence in knowledge, skills, abilities and practice. Nursing as a profession has more than 200 specialty areas of practice. The degree to which certification serves this important purpose varies across countries. While there is no global standard for each specialty area at the present time, there is general acknowledgement of the need to define the core competence specific to each specialty area. Certification can play a key role in facilitating this dialogue and establishing this identity for each nursing specialty. The author here is proposing a workshop to enable participants to achieve the following objectives: Explore the feasibility, desirability, implications, and/or impact for a national approach to certification to recognize excellence in a nursing specialty area; evaluate the factors involved in making a decision to offer certification programs on a global scale; assess the challenges involved for certification programs to go international and; identify appropriate solutions for certification programs seeking to move from a national platform to a global one. The author will lead a panel presentation to be followed by an interactive workshop in which participants will gain first-hand experience in achieving the aforementioned objectives with the aid of a toolkit designed specifically for this purpose. Time will be set aside for general discussions and for responding to specific questions.

Biography

Franklin A Shaffer, EdD, RN, FAAN, FFMRCIS served as Executive Vice President of Cross Country Healthcare and Chief Nursing Officer for Cross Country Staffing. He was appointed by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO or the Joint Commission) to serve on their Nursing Advisory Council. Prior to his tenure with Cross Country Staffing, he served as Chief Nursing Officer at several medical centers, Deputy Director of the National League for Nursing and adjunct faculty in graduate nursing programs at Teachers College, Columbia University, Adelphi University and Hunter College. He holds a Doctorate of Education in Nursing Administration, a Master of Education in Nursing Administration, and a Master of Arts in Nursing Administration and Adult Health from Teachers College, Columbia University. In 2002, he was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing.

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