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Alcohol screening and brief intervention (SBI) education for baccalaureate nursing programs: An essential element for international population health

Alcohol misuse, including binge drinking, is a costly health issue that contributes to diseases, accidents, injuries, violence, and unintended pregnancies worldwide. Nurses play an important role in identifying and addressing patients' alcohol use through alcohol screening and brief intervention (Alcohol SBI). Baccalaureate Nursing programs, BSN faculty and State Boards of Nursing should incorporate Alcohol SBI content into baccalaureate nursing criteria. The US Preventive Services Task Force and many other organizations recommend Alcohol SBI is implemented for all adults in primary health care settings. SBIRT is an integrated public health approach to prevention, early intervention, and referral for people with substance use disorders as well as those at risk for developing a disorder³. Nurses can use the evidence-based practice of screening, brief intervention, and a referral to treatment (SBIRT) to determine a patient's level of use and risk associated with alcohol and other drug (AOD) use. International nursing partnerships have become an increasingly popular method of exchanging nursing knowledge and providing nursing assistance across the globe. As the most trusted group of professionals and one that has the most contact with healthcare consumers, nurses can contribute to the reduction in the burden of diseases through identification of individuals who are at risk because of alcohol use and provide early prevention, intervention and treatment. International nursing partnerships are opportunities for sharing healthcare knowledge and services between global nursing colleagues. Findings suggest that the US-based SBIRT protocols can be successfully translated to other cultures, and that nurses can be successfully trained to provide brief intervention for problem drinking in the ER setting. The ultimate goal of international nursing partnerships is to contribute mutual benefits with a sustainable and long-lasting outcome for the patients, community or country.

Biography

Susan A Albrecht currently serves as Associate Professor and Associate Dean at the University of Pittsburgh. She has completed her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh School Of Education in 1981 as well as received three master degrees. Her first Master's Degree in Maternity Nursing is from the University of Pittsburgh, then in Health Administration from Carnegie Mellon University, School of Public Policy and finally in Family Nurse Practitioner from Ohio State University, College of Nursing. In addition to her plethora of clinical and professional experience, she has received over 25 hours and has been awarded a Sigma Theta Tau research grant, an American Nurses Foundation grant, an American Heart Association grant and a National Institute of Health R01

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