



INP / APN NETWORK BULLETIN

International Council of Nurses • Conseil international des infirmières • Consejo internacional de enfermeras

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Update from the ICN INP/APN Network Chair Madrean Schober

As global interest in advanced nursing practice grows, activities and resources provided by the ICN International NP/APN Network have increased in response to needs from the international community. In the past six months the network has:

- Launched a new expanded web site www.icn-apnetwork.org;
- Published the first issue of the network bulletin;
- Presented a session on advanced practice nursing at the ICN Conference in Geneva, June 2003;
- Initiated a Network Resource Bank; and
- Started an NP/APN program directory on the web site.

International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network: Membership Guidelines

The INP/APN network is part of the International Council of Nurses' (ICN) coalition of networks that foster nursing globally through individual membership. Nurse Practitioners, Advanced Practice Nurses and interested others are invited to join in the development and advancement of the network goals.

Participation in the Network is free at present and membership forms can be found and completed on the website: www.icn-apnetwork.org. The Network includes Network Resource Bank (NRB)

comprised of experts in the field. Applications for membership of the NRB can be completed on the network website. All travel and meeting expenses related to volunteer participation in Network activities are the responsibility of the individual.

Advanced Practice Nurses in Motion Featured Countries

Nursing in Iraq *Fadwa Affara*

The current situation of nursing and midwifery in Iraq reflects the isolation, neglect and conflicts that have been the fate of Iraq in the past years. While the need for quality nursing services is overwhelming, nursing and midwifery can respond neither in providing the quantity required, nor the quality expected in today's health care system.

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Some of the issues that Iraqi nurses will have to deal with include:

- The term 'nurse' has no singular meaning. It is used to cover a whole range of nursing personnel from the nearly illiterate auxiliary to the university degree prepared nurse.
- Nursing is regarded as a low status occupation and has a poor image, not only with respect to society in general, but within the health care system. Midwifery suffers from an even larger problems status and image.
- Nurses and midwives seem powerless to make decisions about their profession.
- There are multiple levels of education for nurses and midwives.
- There are no post-basic programs in nursing specialization available.
- Few teachers have teaching qualifications, and often not even the most minimal of preparation for the teaching role.
- The physical fabric of many of the schools is extremely dilapidated. Looting after the most recent conflict has worsened this. Teaching equipment, books and journals is either very limited or non-existent.
- There is an acute shortage of nurses e.g. one province of over 900,000 persons has under 30 nurses.
- The Nursing Directorate has limited opportunities for communication, and is not involved in most of the planning activities of the Ministry of Health even in areas directly concerning nursing.
- There is no nursing structure with a clearly defined nursing service in most hospitals.
- There are severe quality issues in nursing and midwifery care delivery. These are compounded by the absence of job descriptions, lack of role and function definition and the relegation of the nurses to carrying out what are virtually "housekeeping" duties. Other health care workers, including physicians, have appropriated tasks and roles considered to be nursing responsibilities in countries where modern nursing is practiced.
- Poor security and a lack of transport post-war have considerably added to

the difficulties facing nurses in the work place.

Iraqi nurses desperately need our help to climb out of the situation created by years of severe resource starvation and isolation. There is a danger that assistance, however well intentioned, may add to the confusion and fragmentation of nursing and midwifery if it does not contribute to the overall vision, goals and aspirations of Iraqi nurses. A comprehensive plan is being developed and as soon as all the stakeholders have endorsed the plan, it will be published and made available to the larger community of nurses and other interested parties.

Advanced Practice Nursing in Pakistan Raisa Gul

Educational institutions in Pakistan, whether public or private, are recognized as schools of nursing, schools of public health, midwifery schools, and colleges of nursing. Most of the nursing schools are operated on the apprentice model and offer a three-year general nursing diploma nursing. The school of midwifery offers a one-year diploma in midwifery. Public health schools prepare Lady Health Visitors who have a one-year diploma in midwifery and a one-year diploma in public health. Educational preparation at these institutions is considered basic education in nursing. These institutions are regulated by Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC). Upon completion of basic nursing education, nursing personnel are conferred with licensure to practice as a Registered Nurse (RN), Registered Midwife (RM) and or Registered Lady Health Visitor (LHV). These credentials are recognized at the country level.

The Colleges of Nursing offer one-year programs in clinical specialization such as anesthesia, community health, pediatrics, psychiatry, oncology etc., as well as diplomas in teaching and ward administration. These diploma qualifications are referred to as post basic or advanced education in nursing in Pakistan. With the exception of teaching and ward administration, the scope of practice for post basic or advanced diplomas in clinical specialization is not

clearly delineated by the PNC. Similarly, the licensure card of nurses carries this qualification, but it does not give nurses any additional privileges for advanced practice.

The undergraduate degree program, Post RN BScN, was initiated at the Aga Khan University School of Nursing, a private University, in 1988. This was followed by a 4-year BScN program in 1997 and a Master in Science of Nursing (MScN) degree in 2001. Besides, AKU-SON, one of the colleges has also begun to offer the post RN BScN degree. However, in regards to graduate education, AKU-SON is the only institution to offer MScN in the country. In view of the country need and diversity of potential candidates for the MScN program, the existing curriculum of MScN is grounded with research and general in nature rather than specialized. However, it has the potential to focus on clinical, administration or teaching in nursing. Like the post basic diploma education, all the aforementioned degree (undergraduate or graduate) programs do not have a specific scope of practice identified by the professional organization. Although private health care organizations have begun to realize the value of graduate education, the formal infrastructure for advanced practice and role recognition has yet to be developed. Finally, the potential scope of advanced practice nursing exists in Pakistan, but its acceptance in the broader health care system in the country has a long way to go.

***Status of Nursing and Midwifery Services in the Sultanate of Oman
Shariffa Saif Al-Jabry,
Director of Nursing Ministry of Health***

Since the 1970s, Oman has depended heavily on non-national health human resources for the delivery of health services. There are more than 22 nationalities practicing nursing and midwifery in Oman, the majority being from the Asian continent followed by the Middle East, Europe and Africa. In its strategy to nationalize the workforce, the Ministry of Health opened eleven schools of nursing in different parts of the country during the 1990s. The programs award a diploma in

General Nursing upon completion of three years training. In 2002 the Sultan Qaboos University started a Baccalaureate program in Nursing. The first class of graduates is expected in 2006.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) provides more than 95% of health services. The national nursing workforce in the MOH has reached 50%. The mean age of Omani nurses is 23 years. In order to prepare Omani nurses to work in specialty nursing, diploma level post basic specialty programs in Nursing Administration, Midwifery, Nephrology, Pediatric ICU and Neonatal have been available since mid 1995. On the job training programs in other fields of specialty nursing are also offered to ensure that minimum competencies for practice are acquired.

Regulation of nursing is a priority. The Oman Nursing and Midwifery Council was formed in 1991. Oman is member of the Arab Gulf Co-operation Council's Nursing and Midwifery Technical committee. This committee has been a medium for ensuring that standards of nursing practice, education and regulation are standardized throughout the six AGCC countries.

News form around the world

***News from Down Under
Mollie Burley
Monash University School of Rural Health
Centre for Multi-discipline studies,
Australia***

The Australian Nursing Council (ANC) in collaboration with the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) recently called for tenders (proposals) in the Nurse Practitioner Standards Project. The research project is to develop generic standards for Nurse Practitioners in Australia and New Zealand that will provide consistency and efficiency in national standards development. A number of Australian Universities and New Zealand Polytechnics have developed consortia to undertake the research to describe the core role of Nurse Practitioners in both countries and to develop national/Trans Tasman

standards for the recognition and education of Nurse Practitioners.

UK Happenings
Morag White, Cherry Cullen

The UK continues to discuss regulation of advanced practice. Nurse Practitioner competencies have been developed, and the NP group continues to work with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) in recording the qualifications of the nurse practitioners. A pilot project for the First Contact Nurse is being conducted in nine regions. Cherry Cullen is now a prescribing nurse practitioner. Although the formulary is limited and the process complex, the mechanism now exists for nurse practitioners to write prescriptions. Each step is forward progression for nurse practitioners worldwide. Additional information can be obtained at Cherry@nursepractitioner.org.uk.

Network News

The subgroups are moving ahead with a variety of activities. The Health Policy workgroup is in the process of preparing the next draft of the international standards and scope for NP/APNs. The Research group is actively involved with data analysis of a worldwide study on the Nurse Practitioner concept. The results will be presented the conference. A new logo and display are being developed and the new website is active. The communications group is looking forward to hearing about the activities of members and new developments in the nurse practitioner movement around the world.

Featured Organization Communications
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
Joe Casey Director of Membership & Communications NAPNAP

NAPNAP was founded in 1973 as a non-profit specialty nursing organization devoted to improving the quality of infant and child health care. Today, NAPNAP represents practitioners working with

populations across the pediatric spectrum, including infants, children, adolescents and young adults. The pediatric nurse practitioner provides an advanced level of care to children and their families, including: counseling on normal development and behavioral problems, the prevention of illness and preventable injuries, and care of children with acute or chronic conditions. NAPNAP promotes high standards of child health care through education, research, and legislative action involving over 7,000 members and 51 chapters throughout the United States. . For more information on NAPNAP, visit <http://www.napnap.org>. For more information on NAPNAP's Global Health Care Special Interest Group visit <http://www.napnap.org/leadership/signs/>.

Conferences

You are invited to register for the 3rd ICN International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network conference "Critical Pathways in a Global Context" June 29th to July 2nd 2004 in Groningen, Netherlands. The conference itinerary includes workshops in the countryside and further information can be found at <http://www.anp2004.nl>.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR COUNTRY?

For inclusion in the next Bulletin please send updates to the communication committee at sheer@udel.edu or dweiss@bestweb.edu.