

Interest in Advanced Practice Nursing in Israel

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Background information: It is thought in Israel that the introduction of advanced practice improves the overall quality of patient care, provides services in areas that are currently underserved and raises the level of the nursing profession.

In 2009, the Israel Ministry of Health approved the first advanced practice role for nurses, the Nurse Practitioner in Palliative Care. Since that time, other advanced practice roles were approved including Nurse Practitioner roles in Geriatrics, Neonatology, Surgery, Diabetes and more recently Pain and Family Nurse Practitioner, which are currently under development. The role of the Rehabilitation Nurse Practitioner will be approved in the near future. These specialties were chosen based on national needs and the policies of the Ministry of Health.

Midwives are registered nurses with a baccalaureate degree who then complete a post-basic certification course in midwifery. This course is extensive and includes clinical and theoretical content. Upon completion of the course and a national licensing exam, the midwives' scope of practice related to delivery is rather extensive. They are not Nurse Practitioners, as they are not required to complete a master's degree nor complete another level of post-basic training.

In order to apply to be a Nurse Practitioner, the candidate must be a registered nurse with a baccalaureate and a master's degree, where at least one degree must be in nursing. In addition, the nurse must have post-basic certification (a one-year, post-generalist certification in a specific clinical area such as geriatrics, oncology, critical care, etc.) in a related clinical area.

All Nurse Practitioners complete a one-year program whose curriculum is mandated by the Ministry of Health and includes 300-400 hours of theoretical content and 400-450 hours of clinical supervision under a physician or a certified Nurse Practitioner. All of the Nurse Practitioner training courses were provided outside of a university degree framework. This recently changed with the opening of one master's degree program approved by the Ministry of Health to train Geriatric Nurse Practitioners. After completion of the Nurse Practitioner course, the candidate must also pass a written and clinical exam in order to be certified.

Critical Mass: Currently there are approximately 165 Nurse Specialists in Israel

Protected Titles/Definitions: Nurse Practitioners in the following areas: palliative care, geriatrics, surgery, neonatology, and diabetes. Programs in pain, rehabilitation and family nurse practitioner are in various phases of development.

Regulation: The Division of Nursing, Ministry of Health

Education: A registered nurse, with baccalaureate and master's degree, one of which in nursing, post-basic certification in the relevant area (10-12 month theoretical and clinical course with certification exam) and specialist certification in the relevant area (see above)

Prescription Authority: Nurses may renew current medications, order tests, serve as a consultant, order consultations by other practitioners (including physicians), and prescribe

other types of medical orders. This prescriptive authority must be under supervision of a Medical Doctor. The specific scope of practice varies between different clinical specialties.

Social Media Presence – none known

References

Flag of Israel [Digital image]. (n.d.). Retrieved March 3, 2018 from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel#/media/File:Flag_of_Israel.svg

Web Links :

<https://www.health.gov.il/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

in Hebrew

<https://www.health.gov.il/English/Services/MedicalAndHealthProfessions/nursing/nursingExpertise/Pages/default.aspx>

in English

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