

A POSSIBLE INCREASE IN SPECIALIST EDUCATION OF NURSES FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF DIALYSIS WORK IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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INTRODUCTION

Globally, nursing education runs in parallel to the development of nursing and medicine. Increasing demands for quality and professionalism in nursing go hand in hand with the development of medicine. A European strategy defining the direction of nursing education was drawn up in Munich on 15th till 18th June 2000. The strategy emphasizes the context of education and experience, as well as the competence of nurses in health care.

Following the nursing concept approval the Czech Republic began to prepare the Central Registration System for Nurses. Registration was launched on 12th May 2001. For the first time in our country the concept of lifelong education and the training activities are clearly defined. Training activities within the lifelong education system are regulated by Decree of the Ministry of Health no. 423/2004 Coll. The decree defines a credit system for issuing certificates for the medical profession execution without direct guidance or professional supervision of medical professionals.

Since the academic year 2004/2005, the general nurse specialization at secondary medical schools was revoked. This specialization was replaced by a medical assistant specialization. Graduates who complete their studies and wish to work without supervision, either continue with their studies at a Higher Vocational School of Medicine – qualified nurse specialization or at a College with a bachelor's degree program in general nursing or University with a master and doctoral nursing. In terms of the position and education of nurses, an important role plays their professional organization – Czech Association of Nurses. Nurses or medical assistants have the opportunity to work in dialysis centers without professional supervision.

AIM

The curriculum for high and higher vocational schools in the Czech Republic include theoretical knowledge of the kidneys – anatomy, causes of kidney failure and its treatment. Rarely, however, the students get to see a practical demonstration of the treatment. A nurse who only started working in a dialysis center has partial knowledge. Therefore, initially the nurse must complete the so called adaptation process and gain the knowledge on renal replacement therapy and related nursing care. After a year of training the company B Braun offers the nurses to develop expertise through a certified course on elimination methods. During the course the nurse not only deepens her knowledge, but also manual skills within clinical practice. The next step of acquiring the expertise is based on completing follow-up studies – ARIP (Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Resuscitation) under the auspices of the National Centre of Nursing and Other Non-medical Health Professions. The result of the training system is a qualified nurse. This leads to better cooperation between physicians and nurses resulting in high quality nursing care.

METHODS

After joining the B Braun Dialysis centers the new nurses must complete an "Adaptation Process". The process is divided into three parts and three month time periods during which the nurse has a supervisor devoted to the particular nurse throughout the practice. The nurse has a daily journal of the „Adaptation Process” – where the supervisor confirms the acquired knowledge. After completing the process, the nurse is ready and capable to work independently.

After a year the nurses working for B Braun can expand their education in the form of certified course – Care in Patients Treated with Elimination Methods – the course is organized by one of the world's leading health educational institutions Aesculap Academy in cooperation with B Braun Avitum. The course lasts for six months and is divided into 6 individual blocks.



- Elimination methods management
- Proper care of vascular access in dialysis patients
- Hemodialysis technology
- Nutrition in patients with renal failure
- Psychosocial aspects of nursing care
- Specific care for patients on peritoneal dialysis

Along with these blocks, the nurse must complete 40 hours of practice, where she acquires predetermined skills – AVF puncture, setting a dialysis monitor, connecting the patient to HD, and nursing care for the patient during HD.

The course ends with a final test and evaluation of the completed practice.

Other training opportunities include an accredited course under the auspices of the National Centre of Nursing and Other Non-medical Health Professions – NCO NZO ARIP, which is an appointed organization by the Ministry of Health. Each course focuses on the care of adult patients in acute resuscitation and intensive care. The course can be extended by a Blood Purification Methods module. The study is modular – theoretical part – lectures are followed by practice. In ARIP the studies are for 1.5 to 2 years + 280 hours of practice and they are concluded by a final postgraduate exam. Graduated nurses are awarded a diploma of specialization in intensive care.

RESULTS

Due to boosting the expertise and skills of nurses working in dialysis centers the quality of nursing care for patients improves. The nurse understands her work, she is able to assess the possible risks and complications of the treatment faster and better. Trained nurse is able to provide of better and more detailed education of the patients and therefore improve their quality of life. It results in better cooperation between physicians and nurses in individualized treatment for each patient.

CONCLUSION

Accessibility and the form of training in nephrology for nurses, who work not only in dialysis centers, but also in intensive care in the Czech Republic is very good. Nurses receive great support from their employers in order to improve their expertise. In the case of B Braun Avitum the support includes certified seminars and courses organized for its own employees.