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Challenges and Opportunities in Implementing the Nurse Practitioner in Tertiary Care Center in Saudi Arabia

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Purpose: To Review Challenges and opportunities when implementing the Nurse Practitioner (NP) role in a tertiary care center in the Middle East

Methods:

A comprehensive literature review of NP models in Western hospitals was completed to understand current NP models and to inform the competency assessment of incoming NP's and to provide a framework for expert level practice. The models were adapted for job descriptions and for clinical teaching, utilizing the US gold standard NP definition and incorporating best practices from other western countries. Stakeholder acceptance and support was assessed and added to further inform the role.

Results:

The hospital consists of a single culture/population with care provided by a multicultural and multi-nationality nursing body. The uniqueness of the center's patient population and nursing staff provides an interesting location to integrate international NP models. Current issues were assessed and provided a fluid background to support the NP role at our facility. Understanding prerequisites for each country's current practice including a master's degree for practice or its equivalent and licensure and credentialing was instrumental in providing support for the role adaptation resulting in the use of multiple levels of practice for the advanced practice nurse. Future need for developing a common panel to provide a national opinion and to influence the development of the practice country wide continues to be in evolution.

Conclusion:

Adaptation of current models is an important component for the creation of the NP model to reflect the institution's unique nursing and patient population. The identification of commonalities of the NP role across the globe and homogenization of the practice across international levels should continue to occur as NP's strive to work across national lines. Distinguishing NP's from other health care professions and creating a solid NP foundation utilizing an amalgamation of international best practices, will support the Center's national Vision for development of a public sector and private payer model of health care and support the governments' strategic objectives. Securing a seat at the multidisciplinary health care table will be instrumental in advancing the international NP role.

Title:

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Keywords:

Implementation, International and Nurse Practitioner

Abstract Summary:

In discussing the challenges and opportunities in implementing the Nurse Practitioner role in a tertiary care center in the Middle East, stakeholder acceptance and support, recruitment models and unique qualifications of international NP's with strategies for interacting with the governing body and the creation of councils will be explored.

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