



Moving Towards Universal Health Coverage: Advanced Practice Nursing Competencies in Latin American and Caribbean Countries

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Background

- In response to the United Nations' call for increased human resources to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the nursing profession needs to educate more nurses with expanded scopes of practice in primary care.
- In 2013, the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) issued a resolution, Human Resources for Health: Increasing Access to Qualified Health Care Workers in Primary Health Care-based Health Systems (CD52.R13).
- Major components of the resolution are to build health professional capacity in primary health care, to establish new models of care and to enrich and maximize the scope of practice according to competencies.
- The PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center for Advanced Practice Nursing at Columbia University School of Nursing is seeking to establish Advance Practice Nursing (APN) Core Competencies in Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries and to build a prototypical competency-based curriculum for use in LAC.

Aims of Project

- Identify a set of potential APN competencies that will serve as the template for Core APN Competencies in LAC
- Establish consensus for core APN competencies in LAC

Methodology/Process

- A **comprehensive review of established APN competencies** was conducted using PubMed and web searching the grey literature. Potential competencies were conceptualized into four domains:
 - Clinical care
 - Interprofessional and patient-centered communication
 - Context of care
 - Using evidence for practice.
- A **survey instrument** was designed to delineate APN practice and identify a set of potential competencies in LACs
- An **exploratory survey** is being administered to establish consensus and to map competencies applicable to LAC
- The survey was sent to nurse educators and leaders in nursing services in LAC to establish consensus of APN competencies in LACs.
- Using the snowball sampling technique, respondents were asked to forward the survey to their professional networks.
- Descriptive statistics including frequencies and rates will be used to summarize the data.

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Preliminary Results and Analysis

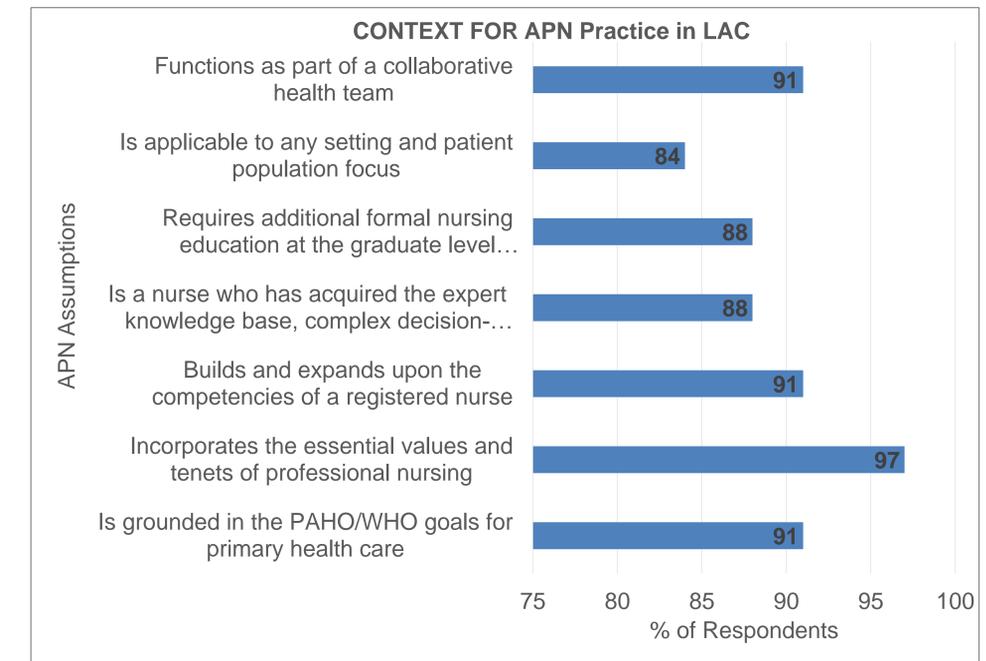
- N=49
- Respondents are from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua and Jamaica.
- 60% of respondents identified themselves as nurse educators/faculty.
- 69% of respondents reported that they do not have APN competencies.

Table 1: Types of Nursing Programs in LAC (N=43)

Country	Non-degree / Hospital	Specialization program	BS	Professional Master's	Academic Master's	Doctoral program
Argentina	*	*	*	*	*	*
Brazil	*	*	*	*	*	*
Chile	*	*	*	*	*	*
Colombia	*	*	*	*	*	*
Costa Rica			*	*	*	*
El Salvador			*			
Mexico	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nicaragua		*	*	*	*	

A "*" denotes nursing program exists based on responses of 43 survey participants from eight LAC.

Figure 1: Agreement of Assumptions of APN Practice in LAC (N=48)



Discussion

- The comprehensive review, the survey and the establishment of a Consensus APN Competencies represent the first phase of the parent project.
- Using the Consensus APN Core Competencies in LAC, a model curriculum will be developed that will highlight suggested content that relates to the competencies.
- By augmenting the competencies to include content areas to support the curriculum, innovative curricula will emerge that fits into the context of the individual country. It also provides a template for application for other regions of the world.
- The model curriculum will be published for the PAHO members. The final document will be disseminated through publications and webinars.
- Ministries of health, educational institutions, and regulatory councils will use the competencies as a framework to build context specific APN competencies and to tailor context-specific curricula.



Figure 2: PAHO Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage: Advanced Practice Nursing Summit (April 2015)

References

- Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (2013). *CD52.R13: Human Resources for Health: Increasing Access to Qualified Health Workers in Primary Health Care-based Health Systems.*
- United Nations General Assembly (2012, December 12). *Global Coalition for Universal Health Coverage, UN Resolution.*