Increasing the Perceived Value of Certification Among Early-Career Perioperative Nurses

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Background

Surgical conditions represent 28-32% of global disease burden with perioperative nurses integral to the delivery of services and care. Specialty certification advances practice, validates knowledge, increases professional influence, and positively impacts outcomes associated with nursing practice. Inadequate professional, institutional, leadership, and financial support or impact on nursing practice. Nursing specialty certification rates in the US are lower than allied health care professions with adoption rates of 10 to 13%.

Significance of the Problem

Purpose: This scholarly project explored the impact of a 12-week evidence-based perioperative credentialing education activity among early-career perioperative nurses. The educational intervention highlighted key steps in the nursing certification journey, extrinsic and intrinsic influences, and certification-driven outcomes as expressed in the literature.

Aim 1: Determine the impact of the 12-week perioperative credentialing education intervention on the perceived value of nursing specialty certification among eligible early-career perioperative nurses. Format: Pre/Post-test using 12-item PVT. Data Analysis: Paired t-test for dependent samples - Wilcoxon signed rank test.

Key Results

5.58 = 17% increase

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<tr>
<th>Pre-test</th>
<th>Post-test</th>
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<td>32.33</td>
<td>37.92</td>
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Aim 2: Determine the impact of the intervention on participant self-reported likelihood to test for a perioperative nursing specialty credential when eligible. Format: Pre/Post-test using 13th item LIKERT Scale. Data Analysis: Paired t-test for dependent samples - Wilcoxon signed rank test.

Key Results

Likelihood to test
0.08 = more study is warranted

Demographics: 27 total participants; 13 completed all three phases; one participant removed as an outlier; mean age, 25-34; 83% female; 54% white

Limitations

- Missing data: 13 of 27 participants completed the pre-test, educational intervention, and post-test.
- Lack of holistic institutional support despite strong work center and departmental support.
- Single, 12-week project period at one location

Conclusion

- Provides foundational elements critical to the development and further exploration of opportunities to positively influence the perceived value of certification.
- Sampling method and educational intervention can be easily replicated to explore further opportunities to strengthen the perceived value of nursing specialty certification among early-career professionals.
- Replicating the project would require minimal burden on future participants, with the project team benefiting from lessons learned and opportunities to replicate the effort.

- Contributes to the evidence available to those looking to influence the perceived value of certification among early-career perioperative nurses.
- May inform future efforts more broadly aimed at influencing the perceived value of certification and specialty certification across all of nursing.
- Demonstrated the ability to positively impact the perceived value of certification.
- Demonstrated the need for further steps in promoting the known influence of nursing specialty certification on personal, professional, and clinical outcomes.

Methods


Sustainability

- Existing Knowledge
- Assess barriers and supports
- Monitor intervention and degree of use
- Evaluate outcomes
- Evidence-based Innovation
- Develop a culture of evidence-based educational environment
- Implement interprofessional strategies
- Adoption - Operationalize strategies of certification test PVT
- Adaptation - National and credentialing body
- Graduates - National certification and credentialing body
- Readiness to be shared
- Translation - Translate evidence, clinical knowledge, and ideas to improve practice
- Environment
- Internal & External


Research Use

- Ottawa Model of Research Use - Planned Change - Internal & External Influences - Impact of Intervention & Environment - Existing Knowledge - Ready to be Shared - Limitation: Ability to Fully Assess Environment

Conclusion

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- Demonstrated the need for further steps in promoting the known influence of nursing specialty certification on personal, professional, and clinical outcomes.