Global Standards and Resources

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International Council of Nurses (ICN)

• A federation of 135 national nurses associations (NNAs)
• Representing the more than 13 million nurses worldwide
• Three policy pillars: professional practice, socio economic and regulation
Standards and Frameworks Global, Regional, National?

• Benefits of global standards
  – Collaboration globally facilitates sharing of regulatory best practices
  – Greater congruence in national, regional and international regulatory systems
  – Allows nursing to define more consistently and clearly what it can offer and promotes a more uniform development of the profession and an international identification for nurses and nursing
  – Convergence and standardisation of competencies and regulatory frameworks can help the public better understand the expectations of the profession.
Challenges/Issues

• Education and regulation must be relevant to the local context and the healthcare needs of the people
• Have to be agreed to and utilised at the country level to have value
• A standardized approach, acceptable to all or most could result in standards so broad that they are not useful or even a dilution of standards for the purpose of incorporating the widest possible range of countries
Possibilities

• A circumscribed area of minimal standards in nursing education and regulation that can be further adapted locally may be an obtainable goal.

• This approach would provide some degree of international convergence and expectations and a minimum standard to address patient safety, while respecting the need to address capacity and relevance in the local context.
Registration Standards

• Protection of Title
• Establish criteria for entry on the Register
  – Education and competence
  – Good character and fitness to practice (e.g., no criminal convictions, incapacity, language competence)

Establish criteria for staying on register (e.g., recent practice, continuing competence/CPD)
ICN Registration Standard Resources

- Model Nursing Act (downloadable)
- Regulation 2020
- MRA and GATS toolkit
- Role and Identity of the Regulator (downloadable)
- Global Database of Regulators (accessible online)
Global Database of Regulators

- Searchable by country or location on map:
- Includes contact information on regulator contact point (e.g., registrar) and website if available
- Summary information on regulatory authority
- Basic information on health system in county
Global Database

Regulatory authorities in Africa in database

• Nursing and Midwives’ Council of Ghana
• Nursing Council of Kenya
• Nursing Council of Mauritius
• Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria
• South African Nursing Council
• Swaziland Nursing Council
• Tanzania Nurses and Midwives Council
• Uganda Nurses and Midwives Council
• General Nursing Council of Zambia
• The Nursing Council of Zimbabwe
Education Standards/Approval/Accreditation

• In place to ensure the quality of the pre-entry education
• Supports the improving and maintaining of standards within nursing programs
• Results in graduates equipped with the knowledge and skill required for safe competent and appropriate practice for their country
• Communicates to nurses, policy makers, employers and the public that the profession has established standards for education and regularly reviews and enforces these standards to ensure that graduates have met certain specified and agreed to criteria.
Education resources

- Reducing the Theory Practice Gap (downloadable)
- Global Trends and Issues in Nursing Education
- An Approval System for Schools of Nursing (downloadable)
- Guidelines for Assessing Distance Learning programs (downloadable)
Practice Standards

- Standards identify the profession, employers and the public’s expectations for the performance of nurses
- Define what is a nurse
- Specify scope and accountability
- Include or are supplemented by codes of conduct and ethics
- Establish criteria for Nursing Councils to assess safe (or unsafe) practice
Competencies and Practice Standards
Resources

• Nursing Care Continuum – Framework and Competencies
• Scope of Practice, Standards and Competencies of the Advanced Practice Nurse
• Framework of Disaster Nursing Competencies (downloadable)
• Framework of Competencies for Nurse Specialists
Practice/Standards Resources

• Scope of Nursing Practice and Decision-Making Framework Toolkit
• Complaints Management Toolkit
• ICN Code of Ethics (downloadable)
• Nurse Prescribing
• International Nursing Continuing Education Credits (ICNECs)
• Describing the nursing profession: Dynamic language for advocacy (downloadable)
Other ICN Regulatory Supports

• Regulation and Education Networks and online discussion forums
• Regulators and Credentialing Forum – presentations on online (e.g., continuing competence, professional conduct review)
• Triad meeting – CNOs, NNAs, Regulators
• Position statements (Protection of Title Nurse, Continuing Competence, Scope of Nursing Practice)
Other ICN Regulatory Supports

• Working with partners to strengthen country and regional systems (WHO West Africa, WHO Transformative Scale Up, African Regulatory Framework, Country legislation)

• Leadership for Change, Global Nurse Leadership Institute, TB Project, HIV/AIDS, NCDs, Wellness centers
Conclusion

• The public’s health is most assured when strong nursing councils and NNAs work as partners with educational institutions, practice settings, governments and the public to ensure quality education and regulation.

• Nurses must be leaders and collaborators to influence positive change, to promote quality care and to improve health for all.