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Nurse Competency in the Practice of Dermatology Nursing: Basis for Professional Development

Competency plays a pivotal role in advancing the practice of nurses. Knowledge, skills and attitude influence the success of the nurses in promoting safe, effective and quality health care delivery system. As the nursing profession evolves, a pioneering field of specialization in the Philippines is beginning to progress through the advanced practice of Dermatology and aesthetic.

The study aimed to assess the entry-level competencies of the nurse's knowledge, skills and attitude in the practice of dermatology and aesthetic and to identify its impact in delivering safe and effective patient care.

Descriptive inferential design was used for this research and dermatology and aesthetic nurses were purposively selected. A modified Kimberly Robin Andrew self-administered questionnaire was utilized to assess the gathered data from the respondents. Quantitative data was analyzed using weighted mean. Mann Whitney U test was used to compare the differences of two independent groups while Kruskal-Wallis test was performed to assess the difference between the variables.

The findings revealed that the dermatology and aesthetic nurse competencies and performance in terms of knowledge, skills and attitude are not competent with an over-all mean of 1.63. Meanwhile, at 0.05 level of significance, there was no significant difference on the assessments of the competencies when gender was taken as a test factor. On the other hand, there was a significant difference when educational attainments were taken as a test factor.

The development of a competency-based curriculum through a graduate degree program underpins nurse's professional development in dermatology and aesthetic nursing practice. Thus, assessing a competent dermatology and aesthetic nurse lays its foundation on the level of education and scope of practice.

Biography

Raphael Victor V. Santiago is the founding president of the Association of Dermatology and Aesthetic Nurses of the Philippines. He has been an advocate of the advanced nursing practice through a specialized field in dermatology and aesthetic. Currently, he is a professor in Research and he is finishing his Doctorate Degree in Nursing Management at the Trinity University of Asia. The author is also the founding president of International Academy Manila and Skinnovate Skin Care Clinic.