

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This descriptive study was conducted in three teaching hospitals of China Medical University (C.M.U.) located in Shenyang, Liaoning province, China. The objectives of this study were to identify the continuing education needs among nurses in these three teaching hospitals, and to determine the continuing education needs among nurses with different years of clinical experience in nursing field and nurses working in different clinical units.

The data collected from 241 subjects were analyzed by using descriptive statistics, frequency and percentage. The conclusions will be presented. The implications and recommendations were also provided.

#### Conclusion

1. Continuing education needs among nurses in three teaching hospitals of China Medical University.

1.1 Nurses need more new knowledge necessary to function in practice. For example, advanced cardiac life support, formulating a working nursing care plan, propose differential nursing diagnosis, new concepts and new theories in nursing, professional issues and trends in nursing.

1.2 Nurses desire to learn the topics on nursing research.

1.3 Nurses are not interested in the content area of nursing education.

## 2. Continuing education needs among nurses in different clinical units

2.1 Of the 10 top CE topic needs among nurses working in different units, the five topics that appeared in more than 5 units are consistent with the top five topics in the 17 most frequently requested CE topic needs among nurses in three teaching hospitals of China Medical University. The five topics are advanced cardiac life support, formulating a working nursing care plan, nursing research methodology, professional issues and trends in nursing, and nursing staff training and development.

2.2 Nurses in most units had their specific CE topic needs which are closely related to their daily clinical practice.

## 3. Continuing education needs among nurses with different years of clinical experience in nursing field.

3.1 Of the 10 top CE topic needs among nurses with different years of clinical experience in nursing field, five topics that appeared in more than 4 groups of years of

clinical experience in nursing field were also consistent with the top five topics in the 17 most frequently requested CE topic needs among nurses working in three teaching hospitals of China Medical University.

3.2 The nurses in all six groups of years of clinical experience in nursing field are interested in the topic of nursing research. However, the young nurses with less than one year of clinical experience focus their attention on the application of research findings while the nurses in the other five groups focus their attention on the methodology of nursing research.

3.3 The young nurses with less than one year of clinical experience and the old nurses with experience more than 20 years are not interested in the topic of formulating a working nursing care plan.

3.4 The young nurses pay more attention to cooperation with each other and fundamental knowledge in medicine than the other topics.

### Implications

In general, the results from this study provide useful baseline data for hospital administrators and nurse educators to design appropriate CE programs. To address the principle of practicality (task-centered, problem-centered, or life-centered orientation to learning), the program content should

reflect the priorities identified.

### 1. Content area

Content areas should be developed in the following areas: general areas of nursing, nursing administration, nursing research, and new knowledge and skills in nursing.

### 2. Common CE topic needs

The top ranked CE topic needs identified by nurses should be considered firstly. These topics are advanced cardiac life support, formulating a working nursing care plan, nursing research methodology, professional issues and trends in nursing, and nursing staff training and development.

### 3. Specific CE topic needs

The hospital administrators and nurse educators should pay more attention to some specific CE needs among nurses working in different clinical units or nurses with different years of clinical experience.

#### 3.1 CE topic needs in different clinical units

The topics on advanced medical nursing, advanced surgical nursing, advanced pediatric nursing, and advanced OB-GYN nursing should be considered respectively when providing CE to the nurses working in medical, surgical pediatric, and

OB-GYN units.

### 3.2 CE topic needs in different years of clinical experience

The topic on nursing research methodology should be provided to the nurses with the years of clinical experience in nursing field in the following four groups: 1-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-15 years, 16-20 years, and more than 20 years. On the other hand, the nurses with less than one year of clinical experience should be provided the topics of understanding the research articles in nursing, using research findings in nursing practice, and using research findings in nursing education.

### Recommendations

Recommendations for further study are as follows:

1. Since the data was collected in only three teaching hospitals of China Medical University in Shenyang City, the results may not be generalized to other hospitals in China. Therefore, other researchers may conduct similar surveys to explore nurses' CE needs in other settings using the same instrument in the future in order to compare the differences among nurses in different settings.

2. There may be some overlaps between major content areas on the questionnaire, and some topics were difficult for

nurses to understand. Therefore, modifications of the instrument are needed to clarify CE topics in each major content areas.

3. It is recommended that a definition of CE be included in the cover letter and questionnaire so that the validity of the measurement is increased.

4. It is also recommended that the comparison of CE topic needs among nurses working in different units, different years of clinical experience in nursing field, different highest educational preparation, and different positions should be used in further studies.