

NEWSLETTER

Hong Kong Association of Critical Care Nurses (HKACCN)

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Message from the Chief Editor

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While there are only three more months to go to say goodbye for this year, some of us might have started to plan for 2007. Our President of the HKACCN Ms. Esther Wong has reminded me the importance of, based on what have been done, evaluation and thinking ahead for the years to come. It is nursing audit I'm talking about.

On a recent casual occasion a nurse manager friend shared with me the achievement of nursing audits of Hong Kong in the past decades. It is clear to me that although good levels of quality improvement have been achieved in the past years there is still a long way to go (as we know quality improvement of clinical and nursing service is a continuous process).

Nursing audit is not a stranger to us. As Collis (2006) pointed out that the belief of clinical staff in continuous improvement of patient service is almost as old as the health care professions themselves. One of the crucial purposes of nursing audit is to improving quality of our patient care.

While diversity in the definition of nursing and clinical audit exists (Collis, 2006) and there is also a vast collection of audit tools available (Sparrow, 1992; Endacott, 1994; Plowright, 1995; Kirrane, 2001), the journey of nursing audit is not merely a continuous but perhaps still a learning one. Collis (2006) identified 7 barriers for nurse-led clinical audits,

1. additional workload,
2. limited resources,
3. lack of skills training of staff who undertake audits,
4. concerns of erroneous audit results which might be used to change patient care practice,
5. difficulties in benchmarking,
6. lack of patient involvement in the process, and
7. Some aspects of nursing care quality is hard

to be empirically measured.

While there is no quick fix to all these barriers nursing audits need to be done for the benefits of our patients and community, as well as for the professional development of nursing practice. For instance a recent study on the ACCCN¹ competency standards for critical care nurses which might provide the means of nursing audit for critical care nursing service in Australia demonstrated a lack of support for the current structure of these standards (Fisher, Marshall & Kendrick, 2005). However this outcome should not be taken negatively. Rather the results indicate an opportunity for the competency standards to be further developed and in time it may be a tool to be used for clinical nursing audit on critical care nursing practice. This process is the reality of scientific inquires in general. There is no exception in the context of nursing audit tools development that fit the critical care nursing context in Hong Kong.

While some authors suggested ways to deal with the barriers, for instance continuing education and success of audits made clearly to staff (Shuldham, 1995), design of audits specific to local units/culture (Sparrow & Robinson, 1992; Kirrane, 2001), multi-disciplinary collaboration (Kirrance, 2001) and patient involvement (Collis, 2006), validity & reliability maturity of audit tools (Sparrow & Robinson, 1992; Fisher, Marshall & Kendrick, 2005) is a key area and high priority to achieve for our journey of critical care nursing audit.

Reference

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¹ Australian College of Critical Care Nurses

HKACCN – CNE Provider as approved by HK Nursing Board

LEUNG Fung Yee
Vice-President, HKACCN

The art and practice of critical care nursing have evolved dramatically in the last two decades. It is now a specialty that requires more than just a causal encounter with technology and treatment modality. Updated knowledge and expert skill within critical care environment are of paramount importance for nowadays practice. As an accountable profession, critical care nurses need to keep in pace with the rapid development of the professional practice through continuing nursing education.

Pragmatically, the key objective of our Association is to develop our specialty and promote the standards of critical care nursing. We strive to provide members with numerous educational opportunities by organizing courses, seminars, conferences, professional visits and research studies. We have established a Continuous Nursing Education (CNE) system which is in line with the HA mission of ensuring quality of health care service provision through continuous staff development. Our system also complies with the requirements of the Hong Kong Nursing Council which facilitates critical care nurses for renewal of their practicing certificate when CNE becomes a mandatory requirement.

According to Hong Kong Nursing Council, CNE will be calculated on a point-system. Every nurse must acquire the required number of CNE points and submit to the Council as evidence of meeting the requirement before renewal of his/her Practicing Certificate. As stipulated, each Practicing Certificate is valid for 3 years. Every Registered Nurse (RN) must undergo CNE worth a minimum of 45 CNE points and each Enrolled Nurse (EN), a minimum of 30 CNE points in this 3-year period before Council approval can be granted for the renewal of the Practicing Certificate.

In July 2006, HKACCN was accredited by the Hong Kong Nursing Board as one of the CNE Providers to grant CNE points for all learning activities organized by the Association. The Professional Development Committee of our Association continues to coordinate the planning, development and evaluation of all critical care related programmes. A new CNE Review Sub-Committee is established to vet all the programmes and make recommendations on number of CNE point to be grant; and seek final endorsement at the Council Meeting in order to ensure a strict CNE provision process.

Members now attend any education programme organized by HKACCN can be awarded with CNE

points, which are abided by the measurements (see Table 1) adopted by the Hong Kong Nursing Board. To be scrupulous, members are reminded to maintain a CNE record for their own learning activities and keep it for at least 6 years. The record should include the following essential elements:

- Date/period of the program/CNE activities;
- the title of the program/CNE activities;
- the name of organizer;
- the number of contact hours; and
- CNE points awarded.

It is hoped that with continuing nursing education, critical care nurses are well equipped to ensure their competency in fulfilling the evolving roles and functions for which they are entrusted.

Table 1 Equivalencies of CNE points

1 CNE point	Each hour of a learning activity.
5 CNE points	Principal researcher in one completed research project with publication in health care related journals.
2 CNE points	Co-researcher in one completed research project with publication in health care related journal.
2 CNE points	Author/co-author of published article in health care related journal.
Maximum CNE points RN:45 EN:30	Sole author of a published book on nursing and/or health care related areas.
10 CNE points	Co-author/editor of a published book on nursing and/or health care related areas.
1 CNE point	Any 3-hour clinical practicum structured visit to hospital or health care institution.
1 CNE point	Each presentation in health care related scientific conference / seminar / approved nursing courses. (Excluding those lecture/presentation that are part of a full-time educator's job expectation).

Teaching in Xian – the Historical City in Shanxi Province of China

KONG Danny
Council Member
Vice-chairperson, PDC, HKACCN

In response to the invitation of Ms Sheila Lu, Chairperson of the Hong Kong Nurses Training and Education Foundation, HKACCN agreed to make arrangement to visit areas requiring facilitation in terms of critical care nursing twice a year. Xian was the starting point on our mission in this connection.

Subsequent to receiving an invitation from Xian Jiao Tong University affiliated First Hospital and the Xian College of Nursing, HKACCN organized a 2-person teaching team and visited Xian on 29th and 30th of July this year. Together with a speaker from Beijing, an event entitled “Hong Kong of Mainland China ICU Seminar” was successfully held.

It was very encouraging to see over 300 participants attending the Seminar. Our topics included Specialty Focused Nursing Management (以专科为本的护理管理) and Professional Development of ICU Nurses (ICU 护士的专业发展) by Ms Wong and clinical practice topics on Nursing Care and Monitoring for the Critically Ill (危重病人护理及观察), as well as CPR 2005 Guideline (心肺复苏法 2005 指引) by Mr Kong. Positive feedback and numerous questions were received from the participants after each session.



Sharing our critical care experience with 330 nurses in the seminar



Touring in Xian

Through evaluation of this trip, we are pleased to know that HKACCN is highly respected and valued for its contribution to mainland China in relation to its critical care nursing development. The local clinical nurses were eager to learn, for example the new drugs used in resuscitation. They enquired about the names in Chinese and also the recommended practice in details. We were im-

pressed by strong desire of their senior nursing leaders to make improvement and update nursing practice at all ranges. We appreciate their warm hospitality and well arranged activities, which made the teaching trip filled with memorable and enjoyable moments.



Mr. Danny Kong



Having dinner with Government officials and nursing leaders in Xian

In the way forward, HKACCN may need to strengthen its teaching team so as to handle greater challenges and maintain its well-established reputation and leading position in critical care nursing development, and in particular to China connections.

COMING COURSES OF THE HKACCN

AHA-BLS Provider (1 day)
November to December 06 Class
9, 10, 11 Nov 2006

January to March 07 Class
8, 9, 10 Jan 2007

Time: 0830 – 1330

AHA-ACLS Provider (2 days)
November to December 06 Class
1-2, 4-5, 6-7 Dec 2006

January to March 07 Class
5-6, 7-8, 9-10 Feb 2007

Time: 0830 – 1630
Venue: A&E Training Centre
3/F, Tang Shiu Kin Hospital

282 Queen's Road East
Wanchai
Hong Kong

Fee: HK\$2,500 (members)
HK\$3,500 (non-member)

Award: AHA-BLA Provider Certificate and/or
AHA-ACLS Provider Certificate upon
completion of the course and passing
written and practical examinations

17 HKACCN CNE points (to be
confirmed)

3 – 17 CME points (subject to
approval of different colleges)

ECG Course for Beginners

ECG 2006-2
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Nov & 7 Dec 2006

Time: 1800-2000

Venue: HKCCN
Rm 501, 5/F Great Smart Tower
230 Wan Chai Road
Hong Kong

Fee: HK\$1,200 (members)
HK\$1,800 (non-members)

Award: Certificate of Completion (attended all
lectures & passed the quiz)

12 CNE points

Elementary Critical Care Nursing ECCN Course (Module 3)

23 Oct – 18 Dec 2006

Time: 1830 – 2030 (8 Mondays)

Venue: HKCCN
Rm 501, 5/F Great Smart Tower
230 Wan Chai Road
Hong Kong

Fee: HK\$1,400 (member)
HK\$2,000 (non-member)

Award: Certificate of Completion (attended all
lectures & passed the quiz)

16 CNE points

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Web-site:
[http://www.medicine.org.hk/hkaccn/
introduction.htm](http://www.medicine.org.hk/hkaccn/introduction.htm)

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

20 – 21 July 2007

ACCCN Queensland State Conference
Cairns, Australia

[http://www.acccn.com.au/images/stories/
QLDCourses/flyerqld.pdf](http://www.acccn.com.au/images/stories/QLDCourses/flyerqld.pdf)

USEFUL LINKS

Australian Collage of Critical Care Nurses
<http://www.acccn.com.au/>

Australian & New Zealand Intensive Care Society
(ANZICS)

<http://www.anzics.com.au/>

European Federation of Critical Care Nurses
(EfCCNa)

www.efccna.org

World Federation of Critical Care Nurses
(WFCCN) www.wfccn.org

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

The HKACCN Newsletter is published quarterly.
The editor welcomes articles reporting news and
views relevant to critical care nursing. The
following deadlines for submission of issues, news
clips, short articles, and research briefs must be
adhered to for 2006. Please email your
contribution to:

Dr. Vico CHIANG at vchiang@hkucc.hku.hk
and

Mr. David CHAN at hkaccn@yahoo.com.hk

Article Preparation

Individual submission should be double-spaced
and can be sent through emails. Accompanying
photographs must be of good quality. The editor
reserves the right to accept, modify, reject and/or
check material to corroborate information.

Submission Deadlines

January 2007 issue – 30 December 2006

May 2007 issue – 30 April 2007

Editorial Panel

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