

Wound Care Nurses: Is There a Relationship Between Variables Affecting Their Certification?

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Purpose

The purpose of this study is to assess the relationship of multiple variables influencing wound care certification with registered nurses (RNs) whose work consists primarily of caring for patients with chronic wounds.

Goal

The goal is to analyze those variables and determine the relationship of influence as it relates to wound care certification of the RN.

Methods

This study is a correlational research design and was conducted using an anonymous online survey. A convenience sample of nurses from several states participated in the study.

Findings

Demographics: For this study the sample size was 68. Of the total respondents, 81% held a current nursing specialty certification in wound care. Level of Education: 57% Bachelors, 29% Masters, 13% Associates.

RQ 1: Is there a relationship between years of experience and wound care certification?

Certified	Years Exp 0-5 years	Years Exp 6-10 years	Years Exp 11-15 years	Years Exp 16-20 years	Years Exp Over 20 years	Total
Current	6	18	7	12	10	53
Not Certified	5	3	0	1	4	13
	Value		Df	Asymp. Sig (2-sided)		
Pearson Chi-Square	8.601		4	0.72		
N of Valid Cases	66					

RQ 2: Is there a relationship between levels of financial reimbursement and wound care certification?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Full Reimbursement	26	38.2	38.2
Partial Reimbursement	13	19.1	19.1
No Reimbursement	20	29.4	29.4
Missing Responses	9	13.2	13.2
	Value	Df	Asymp.Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	35.423	4	.000
N of Valid Cases	67		

RQ 3: Is there a relationship between setting of employment and a nursing specialty certification in wound care?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Inpatient Acute Care Setting	27	39.7	40.9
Outpatient/Ambulatory Care Setting	32	47.1	48.5
Home Care Setting	5	7.4	7.6
Post-Acute Care Setting	2	2.9	3.0
Long Term Care Setting	0	0	0
Missing Responses	2	2.9	
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.995	3	0.112
N of Valid Cases	65		

Summary: Factors identified that were rated highest as a 'moderate' or 'extreme' level of influence for the RN to become certified were:

- New knowledge (84%)
- The ability to receive a new position (58%)
- Job requirement (36%)
- Financial Reimbursement (20%)

Significance

Nursing Specialty Certification validates a specialized knowledge and skill set of the nursing staff. Achieving a nurse specialty certification helps assure the patient, the public, and the healthcare employer that the nurse has met the rigorous requirements needed for a specialized area of practice. This study also gives the healthcare organization reason to consider offering full reimbursement to the candidate seeking nursing specialty certification.

Implications for Practice

Nursing specialty certification aligns directly to better patient outcomes, overall lowered risk of patient harm, and improved patient satisfaction scores. As well, as hospitals participate in value based purchasing efforts, these improved patient outcomes may have substantial results on the organization's bottom line.

