

Perceived Value of Certification Program and its Impact on the Skills Performance of Philippine Heart Center Nurses (2013)

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Background of the Study: Certification programs were established by various credentialing and specialty agencies to enhance nurses' knowledge, skills, confidence and professional development. At the Philippine Heart center, Basic Skills Certification Program (BSCP) equips newly hired nurses with competency prior to deployment in the clinical areas. The program is a combination of didactics and workshops that evaluate the skills and performance of novice nurses.

Objective: To determine the impact and perceived value of Basic Skills Certification Program (BSCP) among newly hired nurses at the Philippine Heart Center.

Methods: The study utilized a cross-sectional research design using purposive sampling technique. Perceived Value of Certification Tool and Basic Clinical Competency Skills Checklist were used to assess the performance of the participants. Nurse's competence was evaluated whether a nursing procedure is correctly or incorrectly done. Data were statistically analyzed using frequency, percentage distribution, mean, standard deviation, independent t-Test and Pearson r-Test.

Results: In a survey of Philippine Heart Center staff nurses, certified ($n=35$) and noncertified ($n=59$), majority agreed that certification validates specialized knowledge, enhances professional credibility, and indicates a level of clinical competence. Respondents confirmed essential value of certification program. Basic Skills Certification Program Certification improved nurse's competence and capabilities to patients and supervisors showed positive relationship particularly in hand washing ($r\ coefficient=0.17$), hand rubbing ($r\ coefficient=0.04$), SBAR reporting ($r\ coefficient=0.17$) and FDAR documentation ($r\ coefficient=0.04$). Successful completion of certification programs not only raise the stature of the nursing profession but also enhances nurse's ability to care for patients. Continued competency requirements ensure that novice nurses remain up-to-date with the latest developments.