

1-1-2016

## Guest Editorial

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### Recommended Citation

Noronha, Judith A. Dr (2016) "Guest Editorial," *Manipal Journal of Nursing and Health Sciences*: Vol. 2: Iss. 1, Article 3.

DOI: -

Available at: <https://impressions.manipal.edu/mjnhs/vol2/iss1/3>

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### **Essential Nursing Core Competencies: The Need for Future**

Professional Nursing Practice is based on sound knowledge and skills that reflect nursing's true components of science and art. In order to strengthen these two components, the nursing curriculum includes topics from liberal education, basic sciences, humanities and core nursing subjects that enable a nurse to take care of the patient with a holistic perspective. In this era where the context of nursing practice has, however, become more complex there is increasing demand on education to prepare nurses to be more competent. The current emphasis is to develop nurses to have attributes and abilities to demonstrate critical thinking and reasoning skills in making clinical decisions regarding patient care. The art of nursing emphasizes on caring and respect for human dignity and family and environment from where an individual comes from. The nurses also need to demonstrate personnel and professional values, communicate effectively in challenging situations ultimately promoting health and wellbeing of patients' families and communities.

An integrated model of education and practice preparing nurses to develop the core competencies will definitely improve patient care and positively affect patient safety. The Massachusetts department of Higher education brought out the core competencies for the future nurses in their document (2010) incorporating the preliminary set of competencies recommended by various regulatory agencies in the United States.

The ten essential competencies, which guide nursing curricula and practice, are:

- Patient-centered care
- Professionalism
- Communication
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Safety
- Leadership
- Systems-based practice
- Informatics and technology
- Quality improvement
- Evidence-based practice.

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) strongly calls on all academic institutions and professional organizations such as national nurses' associations, and other stakeholders to use the competencies in training health care providers to meet the care needs of growing populations. These competencies serve as starting points for the reform of health training institutions and centers of higher education. The regulatory bodies and the leading nursing educational institutions across India can take a lead in incorporating the essential competencies to be addressed in the nursing curriculum of India. Transforming the curriculum will be a crucial turning point in achieving the nation's vision for an effective, accessible, affordable health care system for all.

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