



## **European Agreement on the Instruction and Education of Nurses**

Strasbourg, 25.X.1967

### **Annex I – Minimal standards for the instruction and education of nurses**

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#### **Chapter I – Definition of the functions of general trained nurses**

- 1 The general trained nurse exercises in conformity with the national legislation the following essential functions:
  - a giving skilled nursing care to persons as required in accordance with the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the patient, whether that care is given in health institutions, homes, schools, places of work;
  - b observing physical and emotional situations and conditions which have significant bearing on health and communicating those observations to other members of the health team;
  - c training and giving guidance to auxiliary personnel who are required to fulfil the nursing service needs of all health agencies.
- 2 This also involves an evaluation of the nursing needs of a particular patient and assigning personnel in accordance with the needs of that patient at a particular time.

#### **Chapter II – Educational standard required of candidates for admission to schools of nursing**

Candidates for admission to schools of nursing shall normally have reached a cultural and intellectual standard equivalent to at least that of the 10th year of general education. They shall therefore either possess a recognised school certificate signifying the completion of such general education, or must have passed an official entrance examination of an equivalent standard.

#### **Chapter III – Duration and content of the educational programme**

Nurses shall have a minimum of 4 600 hours basic nursing education. At least half the total time shall be devoted to clinical instruction (practical experience) (see B below). However, the number of hours of theoretical and formal instruction (see A below) shall not be less than one third of the total educational programme.

##### **A – Theoretical and formal instruction**

Instruction shall include all aspects of nursing, as well as the prevention of sickness, health education, rehabilitation, drug action and administration of drugs and problems of nutrition and dietetics, and also first aid, resuscitation and the theory of blood transfusion.

Theory and practice shall be co-ordinated and integrated throughout the programme.

The subjects to be included in the curriculum may be grouped under two headings:

1 *Nursing*

- Professional orientation and ethics
- General principles of health and nursing
- Principles of nursing care in relation to:
  - general medicine and medical specialities
  - general surgery and surgical specialities
  - care of children and pediatrics
  - maternity care
  - mental health and psychiatry
  - care of the aged and geriatrics.

2 *Fundamental sciences*

- Anatomy and physiology
- General pathology
- Bacteriology, virology, parasitology
- Biophysics and biochemistry
- Hygiene:
  - preventive medicine
  - health education.
- Social sciences:
  - sociology
  - psychology
  - principles of administration
  - principles of teaching
  - social and health legislation
  - legal aspects of nursing

**B – Clinical instruction (practical experience)**

Practical experience shall cover all aspects of the nurse's role, including the prevention of sickness, health education, first aid, resuscitation and blood transfusion.

It shall include:

- General medicine and medical specialities
- General surgery and surgical specialities
- Care of children and pediatrics
- Maternity care
- Mental health and psychiatry (in a specialised service if possible)
- Care of the aged and geriatrics.

The following factors shall be taken into account in choosing such fields:

- 1 The experience gained shall be of educational value. It is therefore necessary to have:
  - sufficient trained staff to ensure that the nursing care is satisfactory;
  - adequate and satisfactory physical facilities, equipment and supplies for the nursing care of patients.
- 2 In all departments or units to which student nurses are assigned during the practical experience there shall be at all times at least one qualified nurse to provide supervision, and sufficient additional staff to ensure that the student does not undertake tasks which have no nursing educational value.

- 3 Qualified nurses in departments or units approved as fields of practical experience shall assist in the supervision and instruction of the students for whom the tutorial staff is responsible.

#### **Chapter IV – Requirements for the organisation of the school of nursing**

In order that the proposed schemes of nursing education may be adequately carried out, the organisation and operation of the school has to meet the following requirements:

##### **A – Administration of the school of nursing**

The administration of the school shall be placed under the direction of a medical practitioner or a nurse who is competent in teaching and administration.

##### **B – Teaching staff**

The instruction shall be given by qualified teachers: doctors, nurses and specialists in various disciplines. Each school should have on its staff at least one qualified nurse who has received training of at least one year's duration which qualified her in the teaching of nursing.

##### **C – School finances**

The sum of money available to meet expenditure directly attributable to nurse training, e.g. salaries of tutors and cost of teaching equipment, should be clearly identifiable.

#### **Chapter V – Evidence of completion of the education programme**

- A** A school record shall be kept for each student, the authenticity of which would be guaranteed by the competent authority stating:
  - details of courses attended
  - test and examination results
  - an appreciation of the personal and professional aptitudes revealed by the student in the course of the studies.
- B** The final examination shall comprise written, practical and oral tests, and its successful result should be certificated.