

Interview Transcript: Advocating for the Nursing Role in Program Design and
Implementation

Name of Student

Institutional Affiliation

4-3 Interview Transcript: Advocating for the Nursing Role in Program Design and Implementation

In the rapidly evolving field of healthcare, the integral role of nurses extends beyond direct patient care to encompass significant involvement in the design and implementation of healthcare programs. As frontline professionals, nurses possess unique insights into patient needs and healthcare delivery challenges, making their involvement critical in developing effective healthcare solutions. This paper explores the multifaceted role of nurses as they advocate for and contribute to healthcare programs, highlighting their crucial contributions to ensuring these initiatives are both effective and patient-centered. By examining a specific healthcare program, the discussion illuminates how nurses influence program design and implementation, advocating for patient needs and enhancing healthcare outcomes.

Interviewer: Welcome! To begin, could you tell us about a healthcare program within your practice? What are the costs and projected outcomes of this program?

Nurse Leader: Thank you for having me. One of the programs we have recently developed focuses on improving care for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The program, which includes a combination of patient education, regular monitoring, and enhanced communication channels between patients and healthcare providers, aims to reduce the frequency of hospital readmissions and improve the quality of life for these patients (Konstantinidis et al., 2022). The costs involve training staff, implementing new software for monitoring, and patient education materials. Projected outcomes include a 20% reduction in hospital readmissions within the first year and improved patient satisfaction scores.

Interviewer: Interesting. Who is your target population for this program?

Nurse Leader: Our target population is primarily elderly patients diagnosed with COPD, who have had one or more hospital admissions in the past year. This group is

particularly vulnerable to complications and rapid declines in health status, making them ideal candidates for intensive management.

Interviewer: What is the role of the nurse in providing input for the design of this healthcare program? Can you provide examples?

Nurse Leader: Nurses are pivotal in the design of this program. For example, our insights from direct patient care allow us to identify key elements that need addressing – such as patient education on medication adherence and the importance of regular physiotherapy. We have used our firsthand experience to shape educational content and design follow-up protocols that are not only medically appropriate but also aligned with patients' lifestyles and capabilities.

Interviewer: As an advocate for your target population, what is your role in this healthcare program? Do you have input into design decisions? How else do you impact design?

Nurse Leader: As a nurse, my advocacy role involves voicing the needs and preferences of our patients during the design phase of the program (Heck et al., 2022). I ensure that the program components are patient-centered and feasible. I participate in planning meetings and contribute to decision-making processes, ensuring that the patient's voice is represented. Beyond just input, I also help model interventions based on predicted patient behaviors and preferences, which influences the overall design.

Interviewer: What is the role of the nurse in healthcare program implementation? How does this role vary between design and implementation?

Nurse Leader: In implementation, the nurse's role shifts from advisory to action. While during the design phase we might suggest features based on theoretical outcomes and patient needs, in implementation, we execute these plans. It involves educating patients, managing the interventions, assessing outcomes, and adjusting care plans as necessary. For

example, in our COPD program, nurses take the lead on teaching patients how to use monitoring devices and interpret the data they collect.

Interviewer: Who are the members of a healthcare team that you believe are most needed to implement a program? Can you explain why?

Nurse Leader: A multidisciplinary team is crucial for effective program implementation. Besides nurses, this team often includes physicians who oversee medical protocols, physiotherapists who assist with physical therapy components, and dietitians who provide nutritional counseling (Berner et al., 2021). Social workers also play a vital role in addressing any social or psychological barriers to program adherence. Each professional brings a different perspective, ensuring that all aspects of patient care are addressed comprehensively.

Conclusion

The nurse's role in both the design and implementation of healthcare programs is critical. Through direct interaction and feedback, nurses help ensure that programs are both effective and aligned with patient needs, acting not just as caregivers but as advocates and leaders in healthcare improvement initiatives. Our work in the COPD program is just one example of how nursing professionals can lead change and significantly impact health outcomes by being actively involved in all stages of program development and execution.

References

- Berner, P., Bezner, J. R., Morris, D., & Lein Jr, D. H. (2021). Nutrition in physical therapist practice: Setting the stage for taking action. *Physical Therapy, 101*(5), pzab062.
- Heck, L. O., Carrara, B. S., Mendes, I. A. C., & Arena Ventura, C. A. (2022). Nursing and advocacy in health: An integrative review. *Nursing Ethics, 29*(4), 1014–1034.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/09697330211062981>
- Konstantinidis, A., Kyriakopoulos, C., Ntritsos, G., Giannakeas, N., Gourgoulialis, K. I., Kostikas, K., & Gogali, A. (2022). The role of digital tools in the timely diagnosis and prevention of acute exacerbations of COPD: A comprehensive review of the literature. *Diagnostics, 12*(2), 269.