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Evaluating the transfer of Nursing CE to practice

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Background: The nursing profession needed evidence of the important contributions that nursing continuing education (CE) makes to nursing practice change. Nurse researchers analyzed nurses' intent to change practice, actual practice change and examples of practice change following completion of nursing CE courses of differing types, topics and geographic locations.

Methods: A retrospective, mixed-methods study design was used to analyze quantitative and qualitative survey data gathered upon completion and within one year following completion of 16 different nursing CE courses.

Results: With a sample size of 480 nurse respondents, majority of the nurses reported positive intent to change practice (88.6%) and actual practice change (89.1%) following participation in the nursing CE courses. Qualitative analysis revealed four practice-related themes including becoming certified, improved leadership, enhanced role performance, and educating or mentoring others.

Conclusions: Nursing CE can positively impact nursing practice change and lead to broader organizational improvements.

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