

Associate-Degree Level versus the Baccalaureate-Degree Level

Name:

Course:

Institution:

Due Date:

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Question One

Education improves the delivery of quality healthcare as well as clinical proficiency. Quality patient care is centered on acquiring a well-educated nursing labor force where lower mortality rates, lesser medication errors along with positive outcomes are all connected to nurses who have been equipped by the various degree levels (Rosseter, 2014). The different levels that a nurse is prepared through education bring a robust influence on the nurses' capability to practice in the healthcare setting. One such level is the Associate Degree which was established in the 1950s by Dr. Mildred Montag to remove the deficiency of nurses following the World War II through reducing the period of education to two years while additionally giving an all-encompassing educational base for nurses. The other level is the Baccalaureate Degree which was founded in the year 1944 after Congress passed a G.I. Bill of Rights which advocated war veterans to get vocational training as well as college education (Conner, & Thielemann, 2013).

A baccalaureate-degree level describes a nurse who has completed a four year course that details training in a university or even senior college (Blegen, Goode, Park, Vaughn, & Spetz, 2013). They also need to have finished 120 hours of college plus have wide ranging understanding in physical as well as social sciences, nursing research, community and public health, social, political as well as economic concerns. On the other hand, the associate-degree level refers to a nurse who has finished a two year program in a community college with an additional 60 hours college credit and attained the understanding of the fundamentals of nursing. Despite the two educational levels seeing nurses take a similar licensure exam following completion of their program and have a registered nurse license to practice as a registered nurse, there are still huge disparities amongst their quality of work. This is clear in the patient outcomes, lesser mortality rates, clinical proficiency, critical thinking, quality patient care, and

decision making when a baccalaureate-degree level nurse is involved. In their study Blegen et.al, (2013), noted that nurses who have a baccalaureate degree could desire to be absorbed in administrative and leadership positions or specific nursing specialties such as nurse education, public health nurse, care nurse managers and nursing research among others. On the other hand, an associate degree level nurse will find it hard in the situation that they are seeking for roles or responsibilities that necessitate a BSN degree.

In early days, diploma and associate degree were formally what the community required for nurses to provide bedside nursing with marginal costs, even though death rate was larger as compared what it is in the present day. According to a recent study by Auerbach, Buerhaus, and Staiger (2015), most contemporary hospitals expecting a magnet status are reducing their recruitment of associate degree nurses. When compared to associate degree nurses, baccalaureate degree nurses are additionally competent in nursing, leadership, scientific, humanistic as well as decision formulation skills. A nurse who possesses a baccalaureate degree will have more knowledge on how to deliver services that are competent in outpatient centers, private homes, and neighborhood clinics. These competencies describe the reason as to why demand for the baccalaureate nurses is continually growing since the focus of hospitals is currently in acute care and health care. The two degree levels ready nurses for entry-level jobs although the baccalaureate degree has been planned to give additional career chances for upward mobility, a larger paycheck and in the long run job security.

Question Two

An illustration of a patient situation is a new patient who has been prescribed insulin, is legally blind plus lives on their own and is to be discharged home. The associate degree nurse

discharges the patients and gives them the instructions that they should make an appointment with their private doctor after two days. The patient was worried and uncomfortable heading home unaccompanied. This led to the baccalaureate degree nurse getting involved and as a result, called home health to have them organize diabetic lessons at home as well as insulin management and controlling for the night. In addition, the nurse educated the patient on ways through which they can look out for signs as well as symptoms of hypo-hyperglycemia. The nurse also spent some time talking to the patient, answering all the questions that they had and later organized for their transportation home. Following this, the patient was quite appreciative and additionally at ease with the discharge, since the engagement they had with the nurse eased their fears and presented them a solid plan of treatment.

Conclusively, the extensive education that a baccalaureate degree nurse is taken through means that the nurses develop critical thinking which helps them provide care that is complete and patient-centered. This was shown in the situation above where the baccalaureate degree nurse was not only thinking of the current issues that the patient had but went ahead to address their long term security as well as confidence. The nurse implemented strategies for additional nursing care and appreciate the patient's symptoms, treatment and dangers if not executed (Conner, & Thielemann, 2013). Essentially, this is the point that nursing requires to be and we require continuing to emphasize the total being as well as their surroundings.

References

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