

NURSING CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS: TURKEY SAMPLE

Aliye OKGÜN ALCAN¹, Meryem YAVUZ van GIERBERGEN², Kübranur YILDIZ³

1. Izmir Bakırçay University Faculty of Health Sciences, Izmir, TURKEY

2. Ege University Faculty of Nursing, Izmir, TURKEY

3. Izmir Bakırçay University Çiğli Education and Research Hospital, Izmir, TURKEY

INTRODUCTION

The Turkish Ministry of Health provides specialty certification for nurses who denote a more advanced level of knowledge and practice for achieving expert, high-quality, safe, competent nursing care.

AIM

The aim of this study was to investigate the Turkish nursing certification programs.

MATERIAL & METHODS

In this descriptive study, nursing certification programs registered to the Turkish Ministry of Health data base were examined.

A total of 16 certification programs have been reached. Two of these programs were excluded from the study because they are no longer in use for nurses; finally, 14 were included in the study.



Figure 1. Certification programs included in the study



The data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for Windows 20.0. The descriptive data are expressed as numbers, percentages, and mean values. In the analysis of the data, the type of the program, year, aim, program characteristics and requirements were summarized.

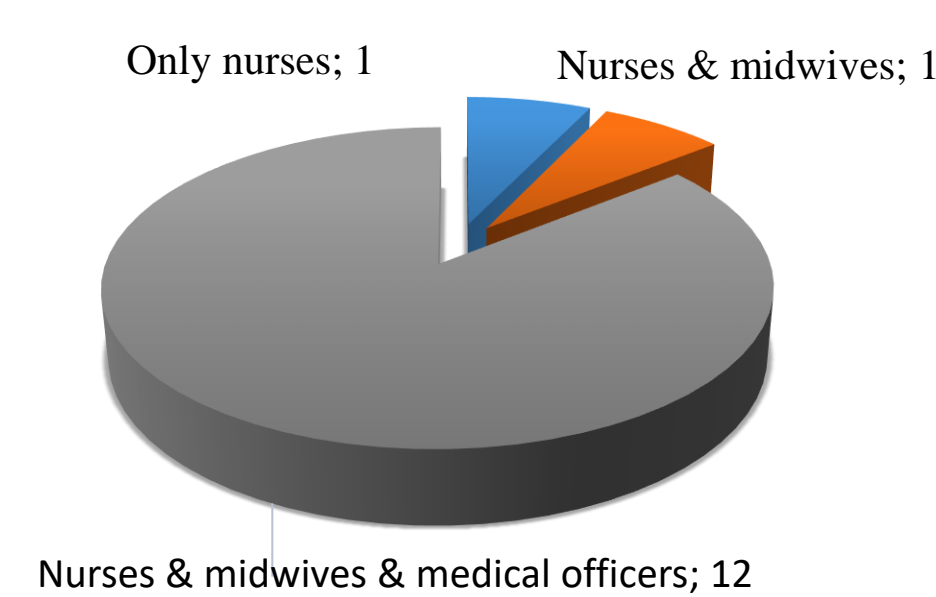
RESULTS

The characteristics of the certification programs are shown on Table 1. It was determined that the mean length of certification programs was 185.8±44.5 hours. All courses have both theoretical (mean: 76.5±26.8 hours) and practical (mean: 109.3±30.1 hours) education sessions.

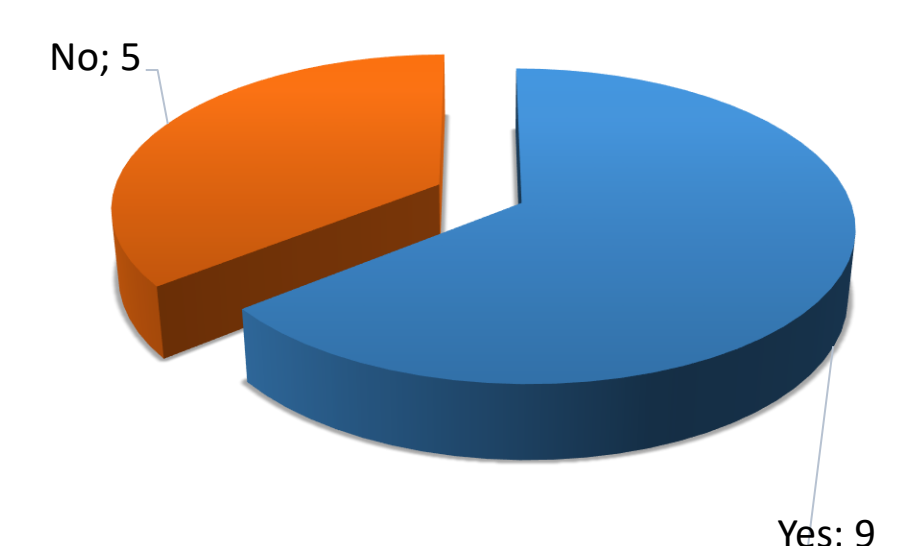
Table 1. Characteristics of Certification Programs

Certification Program	Year of Acceptance	Max. Number of Participants	Theoretical Training Session Duration (hours)	Practical Training Session Duration (hours)
Intensive Care Nursing	2014	30	120	120
Operating Room Nursing	2015	30	96	80
Diabetes Education Nursing	2015	30	88	72
Oncology Nursing	2015	30	56	64
Home Care Nursing	2015	20	52	108
Ostomy & Wound Care Nursing	2015	30	80	160
Nutrition Nursing	2015	None to report	80	80
Palliative Care Nursing	2015	30	35	80
Emergency Care Nursing	2016	20	120	120
Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing	2017	25	66	120
Infection Control Nursing	2017	None to report	34	120
Pediatric Emergency Nursing	2017	20	80	120
Nursing Services in Psychiatric Units	2017	30	94	156
Pediatric Intensive Care Nursing	2017	15	70	130

Graphic 1. Profession of Participants



Graphic 2. Clinical Experience Requirement



It was found that all programs have specific requirements for both theoretical and practical educators.

The validity period of the certificates is 5.5±1.4 (min:5 max:10) years on average. It was determined that all programs have specific requirements for recertification.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, it has been found that in Turkey a great value was given to nursing certification programs.

Depending on the results obtained, it may be recommended that more attention is paid to the individual interests and needs of nurses and more new certification programs should be developed.