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A pattern of clinical practice related to master of nursing specialist: Results from a Delphi study

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Background: Master of nursing is higher level of nursing education containing two types, professional degree and scientific degree. In China, instructional mode of professional degree follows scientific degree steps, especially clinical practice. Thus, establishing a systematic pattern of clinical practice is warranted.

Method: A two-round Delphi study *via* e-mail correspondence was conducted, with a group of 34 Chinese experts in the first round. The Delphi questionnaire consisted of 10 first-level items, 63 second-level items and 105 third-level items, which identified from literature review and previous semi-structured interview. Experts rated and scored the importance of items and the degree of attention given by researchers to each of the variables listed on a five-point Likert scale. Experts modified and deleted items in questionnaire and added other non-display items. Critical value method was used to select items. We used positive coefficient and authority coefficient of experts to get the weight coefficient. Furthermore, to confirm the level of consensus, we also analyzed the degree of expert's authority and coordination.

Result: The response rates in two rounds were 100.0% (n=34) and 88.2% (n=30), respectively. Experts group coefficient was 0.909. All the items reached two rounds with a consensus level. The coefficient of variation was down to between 0 to 0.237 in the second round from between 0 to 0.389 in the first round. The two rounds co-operation index are 0.397 and 0.339, respectively, fluctuating in the range of 0.3~0.5. After modified, the Delphi questionnaire in the second round had 10 first-level items, 55 second-level items and 74 third-level items.

Conclusion: The study constructed a clinical practice pattern for the incorporated education of master of nursing specialist and specialist nurse, including 10 first-level items, 55 second-level items and 74 third-level items. The expert's representativeness was better and experts had highly motivated. The variable coefficient of index was low, both cooperation index and the degree of authority were high. The study has high scientificity and reliability. The pattern could provide reference to some areas' nursing school in some degree.

Biography

Yingqi Xiao is pursuing PhD in Nursing at Sichuan University in China. Her research focuses on nursing education and clinical nursing. She has published 10 papers in reputed journals.

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