

SPECIAL PAPER

The Nurse Consultant: an Innovative Role in the Greek Health Care System?

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Abstract

Introduction: Nursing has gone through phases of being a static profession in many countries with difficulty in breaking this mold in order to escalate its full potential. In countries where innovative roles and new posts for nursing flourish i.e. nurse consultant, clinical nurse specialist and others, nurses enjoy advanced professional independence, greater respect from other health care professionals and hold higher prestige within the extended society. The nursing profession in Greece requires innovative ways to raise the expertise and profile of its members.

Aim: This paper presents the merits of introducing a consultant nurse training programme and posts into the Greek National Health Care System in order actively to address the many problems facing the profession.

Discussion and Conclusions: The introduction of the nurse consultant post in Greece would provide access for continual professional development of the nursing staff, open specialist career opportunities and would raise the morale and standing of nurses. As this requires change, a brief overview of the theory of change is also presented.

Key Words: nurse consultant, role, Greek Health Care System