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## Continuing Education for Nurses

By **Hanif Khaki**

The following article relates not only to nurses but also to those aspiring to enter the noble profession of nursing. We hope you will get some insight into this field.

Although we have used the female reference for nurses throughout this article ("she", "her"), this is done purely for convenience and in no way reflects the gender status of nurses in today's society.

Most people assume that once a nurse has completed her education and has become registered, that is the "end" and that no more learning or education is required. This couldn't be further from the truth. There's more to nursing than just tending and looking after patients.

It is highly critical that a nurse maintain and continue her ongoing education and is kept current on her profession. This is an integral part of maintaining her registration.

A nurse's life in the 21st century is extremely fast paced. There are medical advances in procedures almost on a daily basis and it is essential that a nurse is kept abreast and is at the forefront of these improvements. This requires a high level of time management and dedication to improve oneself in addition to spending long hours in clinics and hospitals. Of course this is much easier said than done.

It is in the best interests of a good hospital to provide everything needed for nurses to continue their education. A good hospital will also more than likely pay for the education of their nurses. A lack of funds should not be a deterrent to a nurse continuing her education.

Many nurses regularly subscribe to nursing periodicals and magazines to keep up to date with their ongoing education.. Nurses are encouraged to go through the relevant published journals on a regular basis.

Of course let's not forget that just as important to success is the keeping of portfolios and timely documentation detailing all the training and education received throughout the nursing career. This written journal also serves as a method of organizing in an orderly manner, all the continuing education undertaken.

Admittedly, there exists a challenge with regards to access to this education for nurses, namely the expense, since nursing is still not considered to be among the better paid professions. This challenge to accessibility can perhaps be met by employers coming forward and funding the continuing education of registered nurses.

Please be sure to check out the many additional resources available on this topic online.

Hanif Khaki is the acclaimed author of numerous health related articles and the founder of the popular nursing site

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### **Analyzing A Nursing Continuing Education Opportunity**

**By Rita Henry**

Continuing Education (CE) is vital for the further development of a nursing career, but you shouldn't choose just any courses to add to your credentials. Each CE program that you choose should enhance your knowledge, make you a more valuable employee and further you on your career path. Evaluating your nursing continuing education opportunities for each of the following criteria can help you choose just the right courses to keep you on the right career and professional path.

Is the Course Relevant to my Job?

Choose courses that enhance your ability to do your job. If your current position is in the school nursing environment, a continuing education course about the latest advances in ER technology isn't likely to have much relevance to your job. On the other hand, some courses that seem to be irrelevant on the surface may have subtle connections that aren't obvious at first glance. Is some of your school nursing time spent in a full-service on campus clinic? In that case, that emergency room CE course may just offer something of value.

Does it Enhance my Career Opportunities?

Even if you're content in your position and have no plans to seek advancement, you should evaluate how a chosen continuing education course fits into your plans. The world of medicine changes every day, and so do expectations of nursing professionals. Keep your eye on advances in your chosen segment of the nursing field to be sure that the courses you choose keep you qualified for the jobs to which you aspire.

Is the Course Accredited?

## Continuing Education for Nurses

If your main goal in taking nursing continuing education courses is to garner CE hours toward recertification or licensure, then accreditation is vital. Check to be sure that the courses you choose are accredited by The American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Is it Offered by Respected Professionals in the Field?

Do you recognize the names of the instructors, or of the institution offering the course you're planning to take? Popularity isn't always a measure of quality, but it is one way of checking the credentials of instructors and institutions. If you're not familiar with either the instructors or the offering institutions, ask around. Nurses' forums on the Internet are great places to find out about programs that you might be considering - and you'll hear directly from professionals just like you whether or not the course material was helpful and suitable for your continuing education.

Is the Learning Style Accessible for You?

One often overlooked facet of evaluating a nursing course is personal learning style. No one knows better than you do whether you learn best with hands-on instruction, or can absorb more information if left to explore and gather it on your own. Choose classes that are conducted in your best learning style to get the most out of your continuing education hours.

Continuing education courses for nursing represent a substantial investment of your time and money. Take the time to evaluate each course that you plan to take to make sure that it meets all your expectations and needs.

Rita Henry is a contributing editor for Nursing Job Finder, the leading job and resource site for the Nursing Industry. Interested in receiving only the hottest Nursing job listings weekly for free? To learn more visit

<http://www.nursing-job-finder.com/article1>

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