

Position Statement: Concurrency of Clinical Experience of Philippine Nursing Schools Graduates

August 16, 2013

Several nurses who graduated from Colleges of Nursing in the Philippines applying for licensure in the state of California (CA) are now required to complete additional course work, in both theory and clinical practice to be done concurrently, in an accredited or CA Board of Registered Nursing (CA BRN) approved school of professional nursing.#BR#

BACKGROUND:

The Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA) Human Rights Committee received numerous letters from Filipino-American graduates of several Colleges of Nursing in the Philippines applying for licensure in the state of California (CA). They expressed concern in having to be required to complete additional course work, in both theory and clinical practice to be done concurrently, in an accredited or CA BRN- approved school of professional nursing. The courses identified were medical-surgical and obstetric nursing courses. In addition to having difficulty in finding nursing schools in the state that will allow them to take only those courses in their program, these requirements are causing financial burden to the applicants. The California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 1426(d) states that theory and clinical practice shall be concurrent in the following areas: geriatrics, medical-surgical, mental health/psychiatric nursing, obstetrics and pediatrics. This means that all clinical components must be completed concurrently with the theoretical instruction.

A joint meeting by the Philippine Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the California Board of Registered Nursing (CA BRN) was arranged by PNAA Human Rights Committee on December 13, 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues and concerns relating to documentation on concurrency of clinical experiences and theory courses of applicants for CA RN licensure.

The CA BRN shared that (1) required documents from schools on behalf of the applicants for licensure does not reflect concurrency of clinical experiences with theory courses; (2) some transcripts did not follow the required contents specified on the CHED Curriculum for Bachelor of Science in Nursing; and (3) the concurrency issue is a global concern for nursing schools and not limited to graduates of schools in the Philippines.

The Philippine delegation of CHED explained that the Philippine BSN curriculum requires concurrency of theory and related/enhancement learning experiences (RLEs), however, are not well documented in the transcripts. To help resolve the issues, the delegates will (1) arrange for an urgent meeting with all the Deans of College of Nursing to discuss and develop a template for transcripts and related documents that will reflect accurate documentation of students' educational experience; (2) CHED will monitor concurrency of theory and related experiences in existing programs in the Philippines; (3) CHED will work closely with Philippine Department of Health (DOH) in monitoring health facilities used for the Related Learning Experiences (RLE) of nursing students; and (4) CHED Executive Director will communicate closely with the Executive Officer of the CA BRN.

STATEMENT OF POSITION:

The Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA) supports the California Code of Regulations and other State Board of Registered Nursing where concurrency of clinical experience and theoretical instruction are required.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION:

That the Philippine Nurses Association of America will:

1. Assign the Office of International Affairs (OIA) to raise awareness and support graduates of Philippine Nursing schools in their compliance with the requirements needed to practice nursing in the United States.

2. Provide subject matter experts for proper case referral and follow-up.
3. Disseminate information through the PNAA website and provide link to colleges where students can apply to take the courses being required by the CA BRN.
4. Collaborate with CHED and the Association of Deans of Philippine Colleges of Nursing (ADPCN) in facilitating meetings with the CA BRN or other state Board of Nursing.

Prepared by:

Nancy Hoff

President, PNA Central California
Member, PNAA Human Rights Committee

Marife Sevilla

Chairperson, PNAA Human Rights Committee

Collaborated by: