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Abstracts

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Knowledge and attitudes of Medical University of Warsaw nursing students towards expanding professional competences of nurses and midwives

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Introduction

From 1st January 2016, due to amendment, certain groups of nurses and midwives (N&M) will be entitled to prescribe some drugs and issue referrals for certain diagnostic tests. Level of competences will depend on level of education of nurse or midwife.

The aim of study

Assess knowledge and attitudes of Medical University of Warsaw (MUW) nursing students towards expanding professional competences of nurses and midwives

Methods

106 nursing students of MUW: 50 bachelor students and 56 master students; 103 females and 3 males. The mean age was equal 25 years (min. 21, max. 55, mode and median 23, SD=7,27). Voluntary and anonymous study; questionnaire prepared by authors and assessed using Cronbach α -coefficient. 13 questions concerning knowledge with one correct answer; 26 statements concerning attitudes assessed in Likert scale (1-5).

Results

Cronbach α -coefficient: 0,782. 50% of students knows when the amendment will come into force, and 21% knows the criteria for independent nurse prescriber. 57% of respondents thinks, that the amendment is needed in Poland. 65% of students claims, that new competences seems to be only new duty to N&M.

Conclusions

1. The value of Cronbach α -coefficient shows, that the questionnaire is valid and can be apply in further research.
2. In the research group, knowledge concerning the amendment is unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement, particularly since new competences will directly affect respondents after graduation.
3. The research group have generally positive attitude to amendment, but they concern about rising amount of duties.
4. Due to fact, that research have a preliminary character, further studies in wider group of nursing students shall be conducted.

Keywords: nurse prescribing, professional competences, amendment, nurses and midwives

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Background

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Material and meth

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