

The Significance of Formulating Nurse Prescribing Policies in Iran

Determining the legalization process, challenges, and benefits of nurse prescribing in countries like the United States and Europe, where this role has already been implemented, can pay the way for other regions like Iran. Some benefits of nurse prescribing include reducing the workload of physicians, the cost-effectiveness of nursing services, nurse availability, faster access to medicine, and greater patient satisfaction with care.^[1-3] Nursing prescription can also help one to develop professionalization, identity formation, and autonomy in nursing. Nevertheless, several obstacles can be identified to prescribe nurses, including low trust between physicians and nurses and concerns about nurses' professional competence due to their limited knowledge of pharmacology. The lack of awareness in the society regarding the role of nurse prescribing and the preference for a physician's visit over a nurse are additional barriers to expand this role.^[1,4] In order to overcome barriers to nurse prescribing, some strategies can be used, including continuous assessment of nurses' clinical competence and their pharmacology knowledge, evidence-based performance, participation in continuing education courses, and expansion of inter-professional relationships. Furthermore, this role can be achieved with the help of appropriate legislation in the field of drug prescribing by nurses and the provision of a clear definition of nurses' responsibility by related organizations.^[2,4]

Contrary to the growing global interest in nursing prescription, there is no evidence of nurse prescribing being implemented in Iran. In addition to legal issues, problems related to the nursing curriculum and lack of research in the field of nursing prescription are among other concerns prohibited nursing prescription from being implemented in Iran.^[1] However, the evolution of nurses' professional roles has been accelerated in Iran, especially after the nursing tariff rules were initiated in Iran following the emphasis of Iran's supreme leader. It is hoped that with the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, the Iranian's Board of Nursing, Islamic Parliament of Iran, and the Iranian Nursing Organization, the issue of nursing prescription will be given special attention, particularly in the country's National Health Vision program. This can finally lead to providing pilot licenses to Iranian Registered Nurses especially those with Master or Ph.D. degrees to work as a prescribing nurse in the near future.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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Quick Response Code:



Website:
www.ijnmrjournal.net

DOI:
10.4103/ijnmr.ijnmr_51_23

How to cite this article: Musarezaie A, Bahrami M, Ebadi A, Zarei B, Abbasi S. The significance of formulating nurse prescribing policies in Iran. *Iran J Nurs Midwifery Res* 2023;28:223.

Submitted: 15-Feb-2023. **Revised:** 19-Feb-2023.

Accepted: 21-Feb-2023. **Published:** 14-Apr-2023.

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