

THE PROFESSIONAL ROLES OF NURSES IN CARE AND EDUCATION OF PEOPLE WITH DIABETES IN SPAIN

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In representation of the study Analysis of the actual situation of the Nurses in the therapeutic education in Spain.

Background:

In Spain, limited studies have explored the roles and competencies of nurses in the care and education of people with diabetes (PwD) across various settings.

Aim:

To examine the professional roles of nurses dedicated to the care and education of PwD-in both Primary Care (PC) and Hospital Care (HC) setting in Spain.

Method:

Conducted from February to September 2023, this nationwide observational, descriptive, comparative, and cross-sectional study forms part of a broader analysis of therapeutic education by nurses in Spain. Health centers in PC were randomly selected and stratified by autonomous community proportional to population size. In HC, all nurses from hospitals specializing in endocrinology, internal medicine, and pediatrics were invited to participate. An adapted online questionnaire from the European Nurses in Diabetes Study was used. Responses were evaluated focusing on competencies associated with advanced practice roles. Questionnaires were distributed to 253 public hospitals and 751 PC centers.

Result:

A total of 988 questionnaires were completed in the “roles” section. The most developed dimensions of each role were:

1) Expert role: Providing advice and support to PwDs, participating in new technologies implementation and insulin dose titration.

2) Educator Role: Actively participating in PwD education and contributing to the professional development of nursing students.

3) Consultant Role: Supporting patients in managing diagnosis and adapting to new lifestyles

4) Research Role: Identifying care problems.

5) Administrator Role: Providing input into staff appraisals.

6) Collaborative Role: Referring patients for appropriate care.

7) Innovator Role: Implementing recent innovations to improve quality of care.

Roles	(n=988) %	AP(n=639) %	AH(n=349) %	p-value
Expert	49.2±16.4	48.3±16.7	50.9±15.5	<0.001
Educator	49.4±22.7	44.1±20.6	59.2±23.0	<0.001
Consultant	49.9±23.9	43.2±21.9	62.2±22.6	<0.001
Research	23.3±21.5	21.1±20.6	27.4±22.6	<0.001
Administrator	9.4±17.2	8.5±16.8	10.9±17.8	<0.001
Collaborative	46.2±28.2	43.0±27.7	52.1±28.2	<0.001
Innovator	36.4±26.4	33.2±25.3	42.3±27.4	<0.001

Conclusion:

In Spain, consultant and educational roles are apparently more spotlighted, while the administrator and researcher roles are less prevalent. All roles are more implemented in nurses working in HC than in PC.