



Collaboration Experience Between Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing and Nursing Unit in Medical Imaging Department, Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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INTRODUCTION

When I first arrived at the Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Medical Imaging Department coming from a medical-surgical background, I anticipated that there would be a need for me to learn new set of skills. This was due to radiology being a completely different field, which is based on high-technological development and advancement. The journey of gaining knowledge and experience is not only mine but also very common for many other nurses from diverse nursing backgrounds who are transferring to a radiology department.

It is essential to have a very resourceful educational system in place to train nurses to be competent, knowledgeable, skillful, and safe practitioners. In our hospital, we have access to the nursing education center,

which provides extensive courses and programs. However, there is a lack of courses dedicated to radiology nursing. Unfortunately, this left the nurses in our department in an isolated situation where we did not have the support or guidance from an official organization or network.

Before we established any communication with the Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing (ARIN), we believed in the delivery of a strong and well-tailored orientation. When an inexperienced nurse first joins the radiology department, the top priority for the nurse manager is to ensure that the new nurse receives a detailed orientation, which includes education about the radiation safety and introduction to different types of procedures and management of contrast media. This belief was the main motivation for approaching ARIN and discussing the collaboration.

BACKGROUND

Our mission as a nursing unit in Medical Imaging Department is to care for the patient and family by providing premium level of professional nursing care and safety. A unit of well-trained individual nurses to perform as one body accomplishes this. Therefore, we perform as a team that successfully displays effective teamwork, clear communication, and collaboration.

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Over the years, medical imaging services have experienced a rapid growth and development in our hospital. Our nursing unit is providing nursing coverage in the Medical Imaging Departments in both King Abdullah Medical City (KAMC; 800+ beds) and King Abdulaziz Specialized Children's Hospital (KASCH; 500+ beds). Currently, we have approximately 40 nurses on staff and are continuously hiring more (Figures 1 and 2). Our nurses are a solid team with diverse nursing experience and cultural backgrounds. The nurses in our department are involved in essential preprocedure preparations, intra- and postprocedure monitoring and care.

Our nurses provide support in vascular interventional radiology, computed tomography (CT) scan, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), fluoroscopy, nuclear medicine, and breast biopsy (women's imaging). Procedures performed in the Medical Imaging Department in KAMC and KASCH include vena cava filters placement and retrieval, transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt, emergency stroke therapy, venous sampling, uterine fibroid embolization, internal iliac artery balloon occlusion, nephrostomy, percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography and biliary drainage, CT colonography, cardiac CT, milk scan, direct cystogram, bone scan, barium swallow, hysterosalpingogram, breast biopsy, stereotactic breast biopsy, and needle localization.

The above-mentioned procedures are great examples of how technology constantly changes the most effective way to carry out these procedures. An official body or institute that updates all the new guidelines and nursing considerations is required for us to implement nursing care standards and consistency, which will result in us making more confident decisions.

Once we reached the conclusion that there was a lack of formal training in regards to radiology

nursing, we were motivated to fill this gap and began looking for a solution. Hence, we found the ARIN. Our discovery of ARIN's Web site featuring "Imaging Nurse Review Course" was a positive sign. We soon began a dialogue explaining our dilemma. Soon, we were reviewing the course content and found ourselves impressed by the extensive and thorough content of the course covered for the radiology-nursing field. Two webinar meetings were conducted with the ARIN staff Bruce Boulter and ARIN president Mary Sousa to discuss the possibility of delivering the review course at our institution. The idea of flying the faculty to Riyadh was discussed first but was believed to be not possible at this stage. Therefore, the idea of delivering the course remotely, using audio visual and communication resources, was discussed. Few obstacles had to be overcome, including time difference, communication speed, faculty availability, and staff availability.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Before the course, copies of the course book were shipped to Riyadh, so they would be available with the staff to follow through during the actual course. At the beginning of February 2015, we began our first course via live webinar. This gave us a great opportunity to have question and answer sessions as well. We were flooded with engaging content, and it was a challenge to digest such vast amount of information, but we were motivated and able to comply. Our challenges were mostly due to logistics, such as finding the time when everyone was available and focused without any distractions. The digitalized course material sent to us a week before the course proved very helpful. With the much-appreciated help of our support team, they managed to print and bind the course material in a



Figure 1. From left: Nurse Manager Cornelia Bouwer, Nurse Manager Reetta Mustonen, Doctor Khalid Al Youssef, Mary Ann Tan, Bongekile Maphalala, Faiza Mohamed, and Katri Savolainen.

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