

Doctor (Dr.) Nurse

Should a nurse be called a doctor? Is a nurse a doctor?

- 1. Define the meaning of the title doctor.
- 2. Articulate the history of the title doctor.
- 3. Describe the differences and common ground with the AACN and the AMA view point using the title of doctor.
- 4. Describe how to effectively rebuttal arguments against the use of the title doctor by a doctoral prepared nurse.
- 5. State the responsibility for the DNP to use the title of doctor.

Dr. Nurse



 The phrase doctor of nursing practice has stimulated debate between the nursing and medical professional setting.

Perception from the

- Public
- Medical physicians
- Multidisciplinary professionals
- Nurses themselves have stimulated the debate (Zaccagnini, & White, 2011).

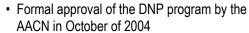
Dr. Nurse



<1% of RN were doctoral prepared in 2010 (AACN)

- 153 programs in 37 states
 - State with the most programs> 5 include FL, IL, MN,MS, NY, OH, PA, TX
 - 52 programs are CCNE accredited -69 programs pursing
- 106 programs in the planning stages (AACN, April 2011)

Dr. Nurse



DNP	2008	2009	2010
Graduates	361	660	1282
Student enrollment	3415	5165	7034

Background and History



The term doctor or "docere"

in Latin means to teach (Chism, 2010)

- Merriam-Webster's online dictionary (2010)
- A learned or authoritative teacher; a person who has earned one
 of the highest academic degrees conferred by a University.
- -A person skilled in the healing arts, especially one who holds the advanced degree and a license to practice.
- -Refers to a religious teacher, scholar, and father of the Christian church.

Background and History



- Prior to 12th century: doctorate degree was granted to teach
- The second half of the 12th century
 - The doctorate degree was granted without intention to teach Law Medicine Divinity
- · As universities grew, more men received professional doctorates
 - Men prepared in medicine, moved into the community and among the
 - It has been speculated that because of this, the general public began to associate doctorial degrees with medicine
- Doctor refers to any person with a doctorial degree in any field, not a specific profession.

Background and History (Zaccagnini & White, 2011)

Generations of nursing doctorate

- 1900 to 1940:
 - EdD offered through colleges of education to prepare nursing
- 1940 to 1960:
 - PhD in basic or social science with no nursing content
- 1960 to 1970:
 - PhD in basic science with a minor in nursing through nurse scientist
- · In the early days
 - Nurses obtain doctorial preparation by other areas of disciplines.
- · PhD allowed nursing faculty to claim a voice in university administration and to effect
 - Policy, budgets, and university priorities

Background and History (Zaccagnini & White, 2011)

Generations of nursing doctorate

- 1970 to present:
 - PhD in nursing or DNS
- · Some nursing schools wishing to distinguish themselves or facing the resistance of university administration to grant nurses the opportunity to study for a PhD,
- 2000 and beyond:
- Offered the doctorate of nursing science (DNS) degree

American Association of Colleges of Nursing



AACN's role in creating the DNP

- · Quality indicators between PhD, DNS, and ND
- Doctorate classification (research or practice focus)
- Title of the degree for practice
 - -Should only be one: DNP
- · APN and the advanced practice
 - -AACN advocates DNP by 2015
 - American Association of Nurse Anesthesia (AANA) advocates DNP by 2025

DNP: History teaches everything including the future



- Nursing is not alone in It's exploration & development of clinical doctorate
- · Doctorate of Practice is found in:

Pharmacy Physical therapy Audiology
Optometry Public health Naturopathy
Nutrition Osteopathy Chiropractic

· Nor is nursing unique in encountering resistance.

Significance of DNP Titling

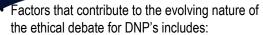




- DNP and RN need to educate themselves...
- · Regarding the title Doctor
- The meaning of the practice of doctorate degree
- To formulate proactive, informed, professional responses when faced with using the title Doctor (Chism, 2010).

In less than a generation, the majority of healthcare practitioners in allied health and advanced practice nursing will be degreed at the level of clinical doctorate.

Contributing Factors to Ethical Dilemma for DNP



- Equality with other disciplines
- Increased complexity of healthcare systems
 - the IOM's report "To Err Is Human"
 - Robert Woods Johnson Foundation
 - Describes advanced practice and knowledge is necessary to promote patient safety and minimize errors in a healthcare setting.

Contributing Factors to Ethical Dilemma for DNP

- · Educate others to clarify perceptions
 - Include patients, nurses, and other healthcare professionals
 - Effectively & proactively respond to the dispute of titling
- Nurses carrying the title Doctor within the clinical setting will require:
 - Public awareness and infiltration of DNPs
 - The need to gain widespread understanding and acceptance.

for DNP ACADEMIA has a well-established role

ACADEMIA has a well-established role of doctoral prepared educators.

CLINICAL SETTING: role confusion between nurse & physician.

(Public: "doctor" = physician)

• to define role PHYSICIAN

USE TERM "DOCTOR"

 as academic achievement
 NURSE

Healthy Debate on the Dr. Nurse			
Debate Issue	Rebuttal		
Nurses should not be called	The physician receive		
Doctor because	the title of Doctor after medical school		
Most NPs have hundreds of	not after fellowship/		
hours of clinical training	clinical residency training.		
Fellowship-trained surgeons			
have up to 50,000 hours of			
clinical training			

Healthy Debate on the Dr. Nurse				
Debate Issue	Rebuttal			
Dr. Nurse	Every profession has the			
Patients won't know if a medical doctor is treating them or not.	responsibility to the consumer to identify their role. To require non-MD health professionals to hide their credentials is directly contrary to Healthcare transparency Consumer empowerment			
All physicians are doctors, but not all doctors are physicians.	The term "doctor" is a TITLE, <u>NOT</u> A ROLE. Not synonymous with any one professional group.			



AMA has identified use of the professional title of "Doctor" as a topic for legislative initiative.

Resolution 211, passed by AMA House of Delegates, accused nurses & other "non-physicians" with doctoral degrees of misleading patients "to believe that they are receiving care from a doctor."

are receiving care from a doctor."

This resolution has no binding effect on state law, but indicates intent to mount a campaign that challenges the abilities of nurses and other health professionals.

AMA is has legislation to halt the development of DNP programs in several states .

AMA	AACN	Combined Belief
Blocking DNP program approval.	DNP is not preparing nurses to be physician	Action to be taken for mis- representation of role
Blocking titling of Dr. for a nurse.	Doctor is common among disciplines: DNP, DDS, PharmD, PsyD, AudD	Clearly identify clinician's credentials both verbally and on name badge.
	Doctorate is an academic achievement, not a	

Resolutions with Justification (Zaccagnini & White, 2011, p. 336)

What is in a word?

- A doctorate simply means the person who earned the degree is prepared at the highest level of that profession.
 - -MD is prepared at highest level of medical practice.
 - -DNP is prepared at highest level of nursing practice.
- Nurses & physicians are licensed independently of each other.
 - Both MD & DNP earned right to call themselves Doctor.

Perhaps confusion would be lessened if we identified ourselves as physician, nurse, pharmacist, chiropractor, physical therapist, audiologist - whose title is Doctor.

"In the coming health care crisis, it will take all professionals in the healing arts to work together to provide solutions to the problems we face as a nation in making top-notch care available to all of our people..."

Resolutions with Justification (Zaccagnini & White, 2011)

DNP is a terminal academic achievement DNP is not a role or position

- You *may* use your academic degree credentials in all settings to indicate educational qualifications.
- Always use your legal title of licensure in the state that you practice.
 - You can legally use the title "Doctor" in conjunction with the appropriate licensure title in the majority of states.

Conclusion

- The doctorate of nursing practice titling is an evolving topic and deserves some reading, thought, reflection, and discussion by staff, DNP faculty, and practicing DNP's.
- The topic of titling sparks vigorous, but respectful debate in the nursing community about ethical and legal aspects of the DNP degree and it's expanded nursing roles.

As nursing changes, let us not cling to the ways of old, but rather actively move toward our future:



Dr. Nurse

The nurse should confidently use the title Dr. that was so diligently earned.

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