

Continuing Professional Development for Nurse Educators by the Nursing Education Association

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The Nursing Education Association (NEA) organised a workshop at the Potchefstroom campus of the North-West University (NWU) on 20 March 2018. The purpose of the workshop was to empower nurse educators with recent information regarding the accumulation and calculation of points for Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

The workshop was attended by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NEA, Dr Nelouise Geyer, the Chairperson of the NEA, Ms Matlhaba, the Deputy Chairperson of the NEA, Ms Nkhumane, a member of the NEA, Dr Muller, Mr Molato, Prof. Rakhudu, Prof. Manyedi, Prof. Moloko-Phiri, Mr Gause, Mrs Motsilanyane, and Ms Baakeleng of the NWU, Ms Tsagae and Mrs Pule of the Mmabatho College of Nursing (MMACON), and candidates from the Potchefstroom campus of the NWU, Africa Care Nursing College, and the Mafikeng Provincial Hospital (MPH).

The workshop was officially opened by the Chairperson of the NEA, Ms Matlhaba, who welcomed all the candidates who attended the workshop. The CPD presentation was done by the CEO of the NEA, Dr Geyer, who started by explaining what CPD is. She explained that CPD is an ongoing process that continues throughout a professional person's career and which ensures that he/she continues to be competent in the profession. The importance of CPD is that it ensures that professional persons have the capabilities to keep pace with the current standards of others in the same field. Furthermore, it ensures that they maintain and enhance the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver a professional service to customers, clients and the community.

With regard to the accumulation of CPD points, she reiterated that the number of CPD points that should be accumulated per year must amount to 15 points in the respective areas of practice per nurse. She further elaborated on how to gain the points and how many points can be accumulated in each discipline. The points were broken down as follows: leadership management (three points), education and research (two points), and educational law (two points). In addition to the above, attendance of workshops, presenting at workshops, and developing a workshop were among the discussed collection of points, with the allocation of one point, two points, and three points respectively.

Dr Geyer highlighted that the date for the national implementation of the CPD is June 2019. The CPD points are going to be submitted in a form of a declaration to the nursing council every June from the date of implementation. Submissions will be through the Internet, with a user-friendly form which can also be filled in from a smartphone, and then the portfolio of evidence should follow. This means that the first declaration will be submitted in June 2020. Furthermore, she mentioned that if the compliance with the required points is good, then the nurses can obtain or renew their practicing licence. This means that nurses can get an invoice to renew their practicing licence. If the compliance is poor, there will be a system in place that blocks the renewal of the practicing licence.

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