

# The Need for a Nephrology Curriculum Update: Elevating Nephrology Nursing Standards to Meet Nigeria's Growing CKD Crisis

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**Abstract:** *Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a growing healthcare crisis in Nigeria, exacerbated by a shortage of specialized Nephrology nurses. This chapter proposes a standardized curriculum framework to elevate Nephrology nursing standards, aligning with global best practices. By emphasizing core competencies, experiential learning, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the framework addresses gaps in current training and improves patient outcomes. A robust curriculum can transform CKD care in Nigeria, reducing mortality rates and elevating healthcare quality. . . However, a substantial barrier to this goal is the lack of a standardized curriculum framework for Post - Basic Nephrology Nursing programs in Nigeria. This absence causes inconsistencies in the quality of training, skills, and knowledge among graduates., ultimately impacting the quality of care for kidney patients across the country. In response to this challenge, we propose a standardized and comprehensive curriculum framework to guide the development of Post - Basic Nephrology Nursing programs. This framework is vital for ensuring that every Nephrology nurse is equipped with core competencies that not only meet current medical standards but also anticipate the future demands of kidney care. This chapter aims to address the growing CKD crisis in Nigeria by proposing a standardized curriculum framework for Nephrology nursing education, enhancing care quality and patient outcomes.*

**Keywords:** Chronic kidney disease, Nephrology nursing education, standardized curriculum, dialysis training, CKD patient care

The multidisciplinary nature of CKD treatment means that Nephrology nurses must be able to work effectively with nephrologists, dietitians, pharmacists, and social workers. Therefore, the curriculum should include training in collaborative care, encouraging communication and coordination skills that are essential for integrated patient management. Through workshops, seminars, and interactive case studies, Nephrology nurses can learn to bridge the gaps in CKD patient care and enhance the overall patient experience.

The study highlights the transformative impact of a standardized Nephrology nursing curriculum on addressing Nigeria's CKD crisis, improving training consistency, and enhancing patient care outcomes. Well - prepared nurses are better equipped to handle complications, leading to reduced mortality rates and an improved quality of life for CKD patients. A clear and respected curriculum elevates the professionalism of Nephrology nurses, which can attract more talented individuals to the field and improve public perception. Institutions can more effectively allocate resources to Nephrology training programs, as a standardized framework allows for streamlined planning and resource distribution.

Conducting a pilot study to implement a curriculum framework for nephrology nursing education in Nigeria by; emphasizing stakeholder engagement, faculty readiness, and curriculum alignment. Initially, a steering committee will plan the process, define goals, and set a timeline. Stakeholders will participate in workshops and provide feedback through established channels. Curriculum mapping will assess existing content and develop a prototype addressing identified gaps. Faculty will receive targeted training through workshops, peer learning, and readiness assessments. The pilot will launch in selected institutions, with mentors supporting implementation and data collected on performance and feedback. Post - pilot, outcomes will

guide refinements to the framework, with detailed reporting for stakeholders. Gradual scaling will follow, supported by regular curriculum reviews and institutionalized stakeholder collaboration to ensure continuous improvement.

A standardized Nephrology nursing curriculum is imperative to meet Nigeria's escalating CKD burden. By equipping nurses with essential competencies through hands - on, interdisciplinary training, the framework ensures improved patient care and outcomes. Investing in such education positions Nigeria as a leader in Nephrology nursing, fostering a healthcare system prepared to tackle chronic diseases effectively.

## References

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