

Certification in Kangaroo Mother Care: USA Evaluation



VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center



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Background and Purpose

Kangaroo mother care (KMC) has many benefits, but fewer than 50% of US newborns receive KMC due to lack of knowledge and skills competence in health personnel. Enhanced knowledge and skill competency increase application of KMC. ^{1,2} Certified Kangaroo Caregivers (CKC)- in existence for 10 years, Certification benefits: patients ³, employers^{4,5} and nurses.^{6,7,8}
Purpose and essential variables: To describe levels of value of certification, level of use of KMC, number of practice changes made since certification and to determine the relationship among value of certification and level of KMC use and number of KMC practice changes.

Methods

DESIGN: Evaluative and correlational design using one group and one data collection episode, exempt by CWRU IRB.
SAMPLE: 359 Certified CKC registered nurses.
TOOLS: Demographic questionnaire, Perceived Value of Certification (PVCT), question "What are the incentives to become certified in your place of employment?", Level of use of KMC, KMC Practice Change Innovations.
PROCEDURE: Qualtrics (online survey software) questionnaires were sent by email. Survey opened for 30 days with two follow-up emails.
STATISTICAL PLAN: Measures of central tendency, Pearson correlations.

Results

PVCT® Value Statement	Percentage of CKC Nurses (n=71) Who Strongly Agree and Agree with Value Statement	Percentage of Perioperative Nurses (n=1398) Who Strongly Agree and Agree with Value Statement	Percentage of ABNS Respondents (n=11427) Who Strongly Agree and Agree with Value Statement
Intrinsic Factors			
Enhances feelings of personal accomplishment	100	97.2	98.0
Indicates professional growth	100	93.7	95.3
Validates specialized knowledge	98.6	95.2	97.3
Provides evidence of professional commitment	98.5	92.2	94.1
Indicates attainment of a practice standard	97.3	92.8	93.5
Provides personal satisfaction	97.3	96.6	97.3
Enhances personal confidence in clinical abilities	95.9	85.0	88.2
Indicates level of clinical competence	94.5	82.1	83.5
Provides evidence of accountability	93.5	81.9	84.4
Provides professional challenge	90.4	91.8	95.1
Enhances professional credibility	87.7	90.9	95.4
Enhances professional autonomy	83.6	69.9	78.3
Extrinsic Factors			
Promotes recognition from other health professionals	79.6	66.8	84.0
Increases consumer confidence	79.6	50.5	71.6
Promotes recognition from peers	78.1	72.2	88.1
Increases marketability	72.6	75.5	84.8
Promotes recognition from employer	67.1	63.7	77.9
Increases salary	12.3	30.7	41.6

Demographics:

Registered nurses- female 100%. (n=71)
Education: 65% Bachelor's (n=46); 24% Diploma/ AD (n=17) or 10% Master's (n=7), 1% PhD/DNP (n=1).
Years working as an RN: 25.6 yr (SD=11.75).
Range: 2-45 years.

PVCT: CKC is highly valued (agreement with 17 of 18 value statements).

Extrinsic recognition: institution-based recognitions were lacking.

Level of KMC use: ranged from high to the highest level of use.

Number of KMC practice changes: range 2-40 (out of 42), most frequent: KMC before breastfeeding to enhance breastfeeding (94%) and KC with breastfeeding (94%). Least used: conducting KMC with intubation (3%) and extubation (6%).

The more highly valued certification was, the higher the level of use and number of implemented KMC practice changes.

#	Extrinsic recognition of CK cert.	n	%
1	Reimbursement for examinations fees	26	37%
2	Listing certification credentials on a name-tag and/ or business card	18	25%
3	Advancement on the clinical/career ladder	16	23%
4	Annual recognition event, i.e., breakfast, luncheon	15	21%
5	Reimbursement for education to obtain certification	14	20%
6	Formal recognition as an expert in my field	13	18%
7	Increase in salary after obtaining a certification	9	13%
8	Reimbursement for continuing education	9	13%
9	Publication of names in institutional newsletter or relevant literature	9	13%
10	Paid time off for taking examination	8	11%
11	Recertification reimbursement provided	7	10%
12	Other recognition provided by the employer, specify	7	10%
13	Plaque displaying list of certified staff	6	8%
14	Pay for attendance at the regional or national educational meetings	6	8%
15	One-time bonus payment after the certification	4	6%
16	Promotion to a higher level position	3	4%
17	No incentives are offered at my facility of employment for certifications	16	23%



#	Level of Use of KMC by nurses	n	%
1	I have little or no knowledge of Kangaroo Care, no involvement with it, and I am doing nothing toward becoming involved.	0	0%
2	I am seeking or acquiring information about Kangaroo Care.	0	0%
3	I am preparing for the first use of Kangaroo Care in my practice.	0	0%
4	I focus most effort on the short-term, day-to-day use of Kangaroo Care with little time for reflection. My effort is primarily directed toward mastering tasks required to use Kangaroo Care.	4	6%
5	I feel comfortable using Kangaroo Care in my practice. However, I am putting forth little effort and thought to improve the practice of Kangaroo Care in my practice.	4	6%
6	I vary the use of Kangaroo Care in my practice to increase the expected benefits for mothers and babies. I am working on Kangaroo Care to maximize the effects in my practice.	25	35%
7	I am combining my own efforts in using Kangaroo Care with related activities of healthcare practitioners to achieve impact in my practice.	18	25%
8	I reevaluate the quality of use of Kangaroo Care practice, seek major modifications of, or alternatives to, present innovation to achieve increased impact, examine new developments in the field, and explore new goals for myself and my practice.	20	28%

Conclusions

- Kangaroo Caregiver Certification is highly valued.
- Institution-based recognitions for certification are still limited.
- Nurses who value their certification implement more practice changes.
- More caregivers should be encouraged to become certified.
- Certified Kangaroo Caregivers need to display credentials so other health professionals and consumers become aware of the credential.
- Further studies measuring the impact of certification in KMC on patient outcomes are needed.

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