EFFEFFECTS OF AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON PERCEIVED VALUE AND BARRIERS TO CERTIFICATION
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Background: It is unknown if self-study education increases value and decreases barriers toward certification.

Purpose: Determine if perceptions toward certification change after participating in an education intervention.

Methods: Perianesthesia nurses completed the Perceived Value of Certification (©CCI, 18 items, score range 1-4; <3, higher value) and Perceived Barriers to Certification (13 items, score range 0-10; higher score, greater barriers) scales pre-post a 47-day self-study education program. Education included testing information, daily questions/answers regarding perianesthesia knowledge, and independent clinical study materials. Nurse demographics and scale scores were compared pre-post education using chi-square or Fisher’s exact tests (categorical data) or two-sample t-tests (continuous data).

Results: Of 25 nurses that completed both pre and post scales, mean (SD) age was 42.2(8.7) years, level of experience was 17.8(10.3) years, and years as a Perianesthesia nurse was 11.1(7.7) years. Mean (SD) perceived value and barriers scores pre- vs. post-education were 2.9(0.6) vs. 3.0(0.5), p=0.31 and 4.3(1.5) vs. 4.1(1.7), p=0.44, respectively. There were no changes in factor scores (intrinsic and extrinsic factors, personal value, recognition from others and professional practice) from pre- to post-education, p values, 0.45-0.94. Barriers to certification were not associated with nurse demographics. In nurses aged ≥ 43 years and those with ≥ 17 years nursing experience, total perceived value for certification (p=0.027), intrinsic value (p=0.041) and personal value (p=0.041) were higher than in younger and less experienced nurses. There were no differences in pre-education scores based on highest nurse education or workplace, post anesthesia care or same day surgery.

Conclusions: Nurses’ perceptions of certification were slightly positive at baseline and remained unchanged after a self-study education intervention. Barriers to certification were moderately low and did not alter post-education. Self-study education was ineffective in altering perceptions of certification. Active education or other interventions may be needed to facilitate nurses’ desire to become certified.