Flight Nurse Education

Now and the Future

Maree Cummins
Session Outline

- Factors influencing an education program for Flight Nurses
- RFDSQ Experience including NP program
- Defining Flight Nurse Expertise
- Planning for the future
1942  8 week course for Flight Nurses:

- Aviation physiology
- Loading techniques
- Survival techniques
Education Program

Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulations
• State Based
What type of work is it?

- Interfacility Transfer
- Primary Response
- Repatriation only
- International
Standards identified by other peak bodies in the aeromedical industry e.g. Flight Nurses Australia, ASA
Education Program

Role and Responsibilities

Education Program

- Aeromedical retrieval
- Telehealth
- Clinical Coordination
- Position Description
Education Program

- Role and Responsibilities
- Credentialing and Scope of Practice
- Legislation
- Organisational Policies and Procedures
- Retrieval type
- Case Mix
- Industry Standards
- Qualifications and Endorsements
- Model of Care
- Aviation Platform

Royal Flying Doctor Service
The furthest corner. The finest care.
Situation in RFDS Queensland

Qualifications:
• Registered Nurse
• Registered Midwife
• Critical Care experience +/- post graduate qualifications
Training Needs Analysis

**Age Group**

![Bar chart showing age group distribution](image1)

**Highest Education Level Achieved**

![Bar chart showing education level distribution](image2)

- Certificate
- Undergraduate Degree
- Post Registration Degree
- Graduate Diploma or Certificate
- Masters
- PhD

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Training Needs Analysis

How best do you like to learn?

- Workgroups: 20 replies
- Distance Education: 10 replies
- On the Job: 25 replies
- SDL: 10 replies
- Computer Web Based: 5 replies
- Lectures: 20 replies
- Other: 1 reply

Royal Flying Doctor Service
The farthest corner. The finest care.
What prevents you from enjoying and engaging in your learning experience?

- Workshop being at a set time: 10 replies
- Inability to do the learning flexibility when I want to: 6 replies
- Not having time to work to practice what I have learnt: 18 replies
- Length of program: 4 replies
- Other: 14 replies
Core Competencies

- Basic Life Support
- Advanced Life Support
- Analgesics
- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Obstetric
- Adult History taking and physical assessment
- Management of a Trauma Patient
- Management of a patient with a chest pain
- 12 lead ECG interpretation
- Cardiac pacing
- Assessment of an obstetric patient
- Management of an obstetric patient
- Conduct a medical consultation by telephone

1 - Novice
2
3
4
5 - Expert
Core Competencies
Outcome

Professional Development Guidelines

External
• education courses
• clinical placement – ICU, ED, paediatrics, midwifery

Internal
• self directed learning packages
• clinical skills competency assessments
• buddy flights

Limited
• on line learning
• inservice session
• multidisciplinary education
Master Nurse Practitioner Studies – Aviation at UQ

Clinical Placement
• Emergency Department
• Intensive Care Unit
• Anaesthetics
• Aeromedical

Registered NP Scope of Practice
Challenges

Model of Care
- defining Flight Nurse expertise
- identification of skills to differentiate from advanced practice nurse
- identifying the patient group

Clinical Practice
- expert mentoring
- clinical placement

Perceptions and acceptance by other Flight Nurses

‘Growing’ an NP workforce

Contracts with other agencies
Progress to Date

- NP candidates completed the course
- Endorsed by AHPRA
- Scope of Practice registered with Nursing and Midwifery Office Queensland
- Business Case submitted to RFDS Q
- No nurses appointed to Nurse Practitioner role…yet
Flight Nurse Expertise

• Stohler, K.A. (1998)

• Pugh, D (2002) *Australian paper*


• Reimer, A.P. & Moore, S.M. (2010)
High Performance Team

- collaboration
- mutual respect and trust
- fitness standards
- synergy

Clinical Decision Making

- knowing the patient
- contexts of knowing
- reflective practice

Pugh, D (2002)
Practical Knowledge

Differences:
• unstructured work environment
• limited supplies
• limited support
• altered assessment approach


*Working in an aircraft...’definitely changes the way you take care of the patient.’*
Theory of Flight Nurse Expertise

- Experience
- Training
- Transport environment of care
- Psychomotor skill
- Flight nursing knowledge
- Cue recognition
- Pattern recognition
- Decision-making and action

Curriculum and training innovations can result from an increased understanding of concepts used to describe flight nurse expertise

Ongoing Research

‘Role and scope of aviation nursing practice’

Genevieve Brideson (2012)
Where to from here?

Continue with clinical education and skills

+ Identify Flight Nurse expertise

+ Identify ways to teach Flight Nurse expertise
Another idea about Flight Nurse Expertise

Unique within nursing

but

Not unique to nursing
The Future

NEXT EXIT
Future Education

Discipline specific expertise

Retrieval practitioner expertise
How?

Buddy flights

Multidisciplinary groups
- Clinical Audit
- Case presentation
RFDS WA Simulator
Simulation
Limitations

- access to training platform
- lean staffing levels
- D-i-s-t-a-n-c-e
- $$$
And.... don’t forget about the long term employees
Aim

Best patient outcomes
“Everyone has a plan - until they get punched in the face.”

Mike Tyson, Boxer

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.”

Abraham Lincoln

“Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”

Malcolm X