

# The Specialty roles in Nursing by Jordanian Nursing Council

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East J Healthc, 2 (1), 44-45

Submission Date: 20/02/2022 Acceptance date:01/02/2022

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Jordanian Nursing Council (JNC) is a national governmental regulatory institution for nursing and midwifery in Jordan. JNC aims to protect and promote the health status of the community through regulating and governing the nursing profession in education and practice.

Jordanian nurses are registered nurses (RN) who are educationally prepared in nursing and licensed to practice in Jordan. Levels of practice are differentiated by educational preparation, complexity of clinical practice, and performance of certain nursing duties and functions. According to the Jordanian Nursing Council by law RN are classified into two specialty levels, nurse specialist, and advanced nurse specialist. For each level, RN should meet certain requirements and achieve professional and practice competency standards. This paper aims to describe the levels of specialization earned by JNC and to clarify the role of psychiatric mental health nurses who are having these specialties.

## 2. LEVELS OF SPECIALIZATION

The first level of specialization in Jordan is “Nurse specialist” who obtained the first university degree (Bachelor’s degree) in nursing or its equivalent from an accredited university or educational institution and obtained a post graduate diploma degree or equivalent program in any nursing-related specialties. Those nurses should also pass the exam mandated by the JNC. A nurse specialist demonstrates competence, including specialized knowledge, skills, and abilities, gained through education and experience in caring for specific population of patients with different disorders and health issues. The main functions of the nurse specialist are characterized by the use of the nursing process to deliver specialized

care for patients with actual or potential health problems through promoting and maintaining health and safety.

The second specialty level is advanced nurse specialists who are educated at the master or doctoral level with the required competencies to provide continuous and comprehensive nursing care, including assessment, diagnosis, and treatment across settings, and should pass the mandated exam by JNC. The Advanced Nurse Specialist (ANS) is a clinician, educator, consultant, and researcher who assess, diagnose, and treat individuals and families with behavioral, psychosocial, and potential or actual problems/disorders.

## 3. CURRENT SPECIALITIES IN JORDAN

There are a wide range of nursing specialty programs that have been approved by JNC ranging from general specialties to subspecialties. Example of these specialties include critical care nursing, psychiatric and mental health nursing, oncology nursing, and palliative care nursing.

Psychiatric and mental health nursing practice is one of the main areas of concern and interest for the JNC. Extensive efforts were conducted to strengthen the roles of psychiatric mental health nursing at two specialty levels in Jordan in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) and improve mental health settings to maintain patient’s dignity through a sound nursing and multidisciplinary psychiatric and mental health care. The professional standards for mental health nursing contain 10 main standards relating to ethics, professional development, evidence-based practice, and research, quality of practice, communication, collaboration, environmental health and safety, health promotion and prevention, professional leadership & resource utilization, quality improvement. The

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practice standards consist of one standard “provision of clients centered care” and 6 sub-standards including assessment, identifying issues/ problems or trends, outcome identification, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Jordanian Nursing Council plays an important role in developing the situation of psychiatric mental health in Jordan through developing national strategies in mental health collaboration with WHO, establishing the nurse scope of practices and general framework of knowledge and competencies required for psychiatric mental health nurses, and organizing a few courses, training programs and international days.

Few challenges are facing mental health programs in Jordan as an example of the speciality programs. These difficulties include implementing the standard scope of practice, the inappropriate working environment for nursing practice and safe patient care, shortage in qualified nurses, and no institutionalized specialized psychiatric mental health nurse.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, JNC succeeds in establishing two levels of specialty that make the nurses improve their knowledge, skills, and attitude in nursing practice. The institutionalization of nurses who are having these specialties will be a future success.

#### 5. REFERENCES

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