


## EDITORIAL

### Nurses' careers in the middle of uncertainty futures


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Over the next ten years, the nursing workforce will be tested in several ways. These include the need to respond to an aging population with more complex and intense medical needs, the demand for more primary care capacity, and the requirement to bridge the gap between medical and health care and the social factors influencing people's health and well-being. Additionally, an education system that better prepares nurses for practicing in community-based settings with diverse populations that face a variety of lived experiences is required to build a future workforce capable of effectively providing the health and health care that society requires. This will require a substantial increase in the nursing workforce's numbers, types, and distribution. If health systems, governments, schools, and payers can capitalize on opportunities in programming, policy, and finance, then these improvements will take place more quickly, more evenly, and with more success.

The role of nurses is evolving, and their contributions to healthcare are expected to expand even further in the future. Several trends and developments suggest how the role of nurses may evolve:

#### **Advanced Practice Roles**

Advanced practice nurses (APNs), such as nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists, are likely to play an increasingly important role in primary care. They may take on responsibilities traditionally held by physicians, particularly in areas with shortages of healthcare providers.

#### **Telehealth and Digital Health**

Nurses will likely be more involved in telehealth and digital health initiatives. They may provide remote patient monitoring, conduct virtual consultations, and use technology to enhance patient care and education. Nurses play a crucial role in the implementation and success of telehealth, a rapidly growing aspect of healthcare that involves using technology to deliver healthcare services remotely. Nurses in telehealth are dynamic and continue to evolve as technology advances and healthcare delivery models transform. Their involvement is vital in ensuring that telehealth services are patient-centered, effective, and aligned with the principles of high-quality healthcare.

#### **Patient Education and Advocacy**

Nurses are well-positioned to play a vital role in patient education, helping individuals and communities understand health information and adopt healthier lifestyles. They may also advocate for patients in navigating complex healthcare systems.

#### **Population Health Management**

Nurses will likely be involved in managing the health of populations, emphasizing preventive care, health promotion, and addressing social determinants of health to improve overall community well-being. Nurses play a vital role in controlling population health management, contributing to the design, implementation, and evaluation of strategies to improve communities' health.

### ***Integrative and Holistic Care***

The nursing role may evolve to incorporate more integrative and holistic care approaches, focusing on physical health and mental, emotional, and social well-being. Nurses play a crucial role in integrative and holistic care, which involves addressing a person's physical, emotional, social, and spiritual health. Integrative care seeks to combine conventional medicine with complementary and alternative therapies to promote overall well-being.

### ***Data and Informatics***

Nurses increasingly use health informatics and data analytics to inform decision-making, enhance patient care, and contribute to evidence-based practice.

### ***Collaborative Care Models***

Nurses will continue to work in collaborative care models, partnering with other healthcare professionals to provide comprehensive and coordinated patient care. Interdisciplinary collaboration is crucial for addressing complex health issues.

### ***Global Health Initiatives***

With the world's increasing interconnectedness, nurses may play a vital role in global health initiatives. This involves addressing global health challenges, participating in international healthcare efforts, and contributing to health diplomacy.

### ***Research and Evidence-Based Practice***

Nurses will likely continue to contribute to research and evidence-based practice, improving the quality of care by applying the latest scientific findings.

### ***Mental Health Care***

Given the growing awareness of mental health issues, nurses may play an expanded role in mental health care, including assessment, counseling, and support for individuals experiencing mental health challenges.

### ***Leadership and Management***

Nurses may take on more leadership and management roles in healthcare organizations. This includes positions in administration, policy development, and healthcare management.

### ***Crisis Response and Preparedness***

Nurses will continue to play a crucial role in responding to public health crises, such as pandemics and natural disasters, and preparing healthcare systems for emergencies.

As the healthcare landscape evolves, nurses will likely adapt and expand their roles to meet the changing needs of patients and communities. Continuous education, training, and professional development will be essential for nurses to thrive in these evolving roles. For these reasons, publications focusing on nurses' careers will be more promising in uncertain futures.

**Keywords:** nurses' career; nursing development; healthcare; quality of care; clinical practice

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