Decolonizing Nursing Education

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Historical Background

• Nursing education has been shaped and influenced largely by the western culture

• Nursing education policies, regulations and programmes were developed from models based in the UK

• While there has been much transformation in the profession many of the ideologies remain embedded in Eurocentric thinking and philosophies

• Indigenous knowledge and practices remain minimal in nursing programmes and are often within topics like Transcultural practices
Changes in Nursing Education

• The nursing education system is going through a number of changes in South Africa

• All nursing qualifications are now in the Higher Education band of the HEQSF

• The registered/professional nurse will have a Bachelors degree

• All specialist qualifications will be at post graduate level

• The new qualifications have also made provision for career progression and better articulation allowing individuals to progress within the profession
Barriers to Change

• Nursing Education Institutions at college level remain isolated from the rest of Higher Education
• The Bachelors degree offered at College and University levels will lead to some level of discrimination from the employers end
• Readiness of public colleges to participate in the new programmes
• Mind set of nurse educators to develop critical thinkers
• The required clinical hours may perpetuate, the profession remaining a vocation
• Nursing students and financial remuneration
Opportunities

• To ensure psychometric assessments used for the recruitment are aligned to the culture and behaviour patterns of local people
• To review the language of instruction and communication with patients
• To use the implementation of the new qualifications to decolonize the nursing education system by ensuring that indigenous knowledge and practices are fully incorporated
• To apply the Ubuntu principles to fuel the development of caring compassionate nurses
• To retrain nurse educators in terms of local healthcare practices and beliefs
Way Forward

• Timing of the change in nursing education comes with huge opportunities

• Requires a joint approach amongst the regulator, tertiary institutions, employers and students

• Discussion needs to move from NQF levels and naming of qualifications to what kind of nurse the people of this country require

• South African nurse leaders to develop our own Nursing theories and practices rather than blindly adopting international practices

• More research to be done on the integration of indigenous knowledge, health care beliefs and practices and the caring philosophy into nursing education systems.
Thank You