Practice is king!

We prepare occupational health nurses for the future

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Background
Since 2009, Örebro University, in conjunction with the University Hospital’s Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, has provided the postgraduate education of Occupational Health nurses in Örebro, Sweden. This education had previously been available to those registered nurses already employed in Occupational Health (OH), but since 2009 it is available to a wider range of registered nurses.

The Occupational Health Nursing Program is worth 60 Higher Education Credits. Of these 60 credits, 7,5 are awarded for Nursing Clinical Practice - Second Level. The content and evaluation of this specific course is outlined here.

Method
Each student is required to complete 120 hours in clinical training with supervision from an experienced nurse educated in OH.

At the end of the period, an evaluation is made by means of a form entitled Assessment of Clinical Education. The students must reach the level Good Achievement. This evaluation covers areas such as:

• Communication and Education
• Nursing Process
• Supervision and Cooperation

Results
All the students from autumn 2011 were satisfied with their clinical practice.
They have also taken part in studies and observational placements/visits with a focus on occupational health such as rehabilitation and public insurance as well as occupational health and environmental medicine clinics in their counties.

All the students have started their own networks that can be useful in the future.

Conclusions
The newly examined nurses will be better equipped to be good supervisors. They appreciate how valuable it is to be, and to have, a good supervisor for new students and nurses in OH education.

It is anticipated that this will have a spin-off effect.

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