

# Brief of activities of the Nigerian Society of Critical Care Nurses



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## SUMMARY

- The Nigerian Society of Critical Care Nurses (formerly known as the National Association of Nurse Intensivists of Nigeria) was founded in 2002.
- This article summarises its history and recent developments.

## INTRODUCTION

The earliest history of critical care nursing in the world dates back to Florence Nightingale, who mentioned in her notes in 1859 that, "it is not uncommon in a small country hospital to have a recess or small room leading from the operating theatre; in which patients remain until they have recovered from immediate effect of operations." A Danish anaesthesiologist, Bjorn Ibsen, also made reference to a mode of critical care, in 1950, at the Copenhagen Municipal Hospital during the polio epidemic.

### A brief history of critical care nursing in Nigeria

According to Rasong (2006), the history of critical care nursing (CCN) in Nigeria can be traced back to the establishment of the first intensive care unit following successful management of a cardiac patient at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital Enugu, in 1973. NANIN as an affiliate member of the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses (WFCCN), founded in year 2000, is working towards forming a stronger international network between critical care nurses and critical care nursing organizations globally.

## ABOUT NANIN

The National Association of Nurse Intensivists of Nigeria (NANIN) is the professional association of nurse intensivists in Nigeria, founded on the 4th of October 2002 with the name National Association of Intensive Care Nurses (NAICN) at the bi-annual conference of the Alumni Associations of Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) and University of Abuja Teaching Hospital (UATH) held at the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Igbobi (NOHI), Lagos. The present name NANIN was coined out at the second bi-annual conference held in JUTH in 2003 reflecting the desire to redirect its objectives of setting and maintaining the highest quality standard of nursing care for critically ill patients and improving members' professional skills in Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa.

NANIN is setting the pace in Nigeria for critical care in general as the pioneer and flag bearer of critical care in Nigeria. We regard collaboration as a major tool in critical care, hence, NANIN collaborates with other professionals and networks with experts in

the field, all over the globe, to achieve better patient outcomes in the intensive care units in Nigeria.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN), which is the professional regulatory parent body of NANIN, is a parastatal of the Federal Government of Nigeria established by decree 89 of 1979 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and amended by decree No. 54 of 1988, No. 18 of 1989, and No. 83 of 1992. The Council is the only regulatory statutory legal, administrative body for all cadres of nurses and midwives in Nigeria.

### Cardinal objectives of NANIN

- To set and maintain the highest quality standard of nursing care to critically ill and trauma patients, and their families
- To improve members' professional skills through networking and interprofessional collaboration.

### Mission

To deliver the highest possible quality of care to critically ill or injured patients and support their families, to cultivate access and implementation of the latest global best practices in critical care

### Vision

To create model ICUs, where the "Right Care Right Now" could be accessible to all acutely and critically ill patients and their families. This could be better achieved through involvement of the skilful and orchestrated performance of an interdisciplinary team of nurses, physicians, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, and physical therapists that are crucial to achieving the best possible outcome for patients.

### Challenges

The foremost challenge is human resource development, and lack of support by Industry and Government, which rendered NANIN an under-served and under-recognised community of nurses.

### Critical care teams

Critical care teams are multi-disciplinary and include a variety of specialists, who treat the most severely ill and injured patients. Critical care nurses lead these teams. A critical care nurse is the choreographer of the patient's care for their entire stay in the ICU. The continual advancements of medicine mean that critical care nurses will be treating patients with increasing severity. Technological advances have assisted in the monitoring, diagnosing and treatment of the critically ill. All of these developments have set the stage for



the advancement of anaesthesiology and critical care. These are technology-intensive disciplines that have led to significant and measurable improvements in patient care over the last several decades, and are, therefore, regarded to be the pace-setters of healthcare institutions.

#### **Objectives of the Nigerian Society of Critical Care Nurses**

- To set and maintain highest standard of quality of nursing care to critically ill patients and their families
- To participate in the planning, policy and decision-making and administration of health care delivery in regards to critical care in Nigeria
- To keep abreast with innovations and contribute to the art and science of critical care globally
- To bring together all critical care trained nurses with the goal of speaking with one voice
- To raise the status of this specialty in nursing to obtain a just and proper remuneration, hours of work and the conditions or scheme of service that will enhance the dignity of this specialty.
- To ensure legal coverage and practice licensure
- To work, cooperate and affiliate with such other bodies as may be necessary to achieve the aims and objectives, provided that such cooperation will not compromise its principles or undermine its independence.

#### **Activities**

- Organizes an annual scientific conference, workshops/seminars and symposia
- Organizes special courses/training in life support and critical care skill acquisition
- Conducts researches to determine the priority needs for advancement in nursing practice
- Advocates for recognition, and empowerment of critical care nurses

- Networks and establishes good working relationship with sister bodies within and outside Africa.

#### **Past activities**

The Lagos Expo2013 NANIN Scientific Conference was the beginning of the World Sepsis Day (WSD) awareness and sensitization of critical care nurses. Other healthcare professionals were also in attendance.

The WFCCN Regional meeting was held at Marian Hotels, Calabar on 22nd October, 2014. Thirty-five nurse intensivists from all over Nigeria and Ghana attended the event, and a brief history of WFCCN's activities, resources and affiliations was given. The Ghanaians shared their rich experiences with the members, and promised to contact colleagues from Cotonou, Togo, Gambia, Liberia, and Sierra-Leone to come together to form the African Regional Society.

#### **West African Society of Critical Care Nurses (WASCCN) mission**

To ensure the practice all over the sub-Saharan Africa, is consistent with established standards of excellence in caring for acutely and critically ill patients and their families.

#### **Vision**

To provide leadership that will enable critical care nurses to make their optimal contribution through lifelong learning, critical thinking and inquiry.

The WFCCN to provide leadership, moral support and professional mentorship to all critical care nurses in the sub-region from henceforth.

Communication will be by emails and telephone for effectiveness. This body will decide on the Organization of Congresses where all Intensivists could mutually agree, share experiences; and develop work-based plans for competence development and to adopt strategies to help nurses to pursue an efficient competence development pathway.

NANIN became a member of WFCCN in 2007 at Sun City, Pilanesberg, South Africa.

