



# IMPLEMENTATION OF ON-LINE TECHNOLOGY IN POST-GRADUATE TRAINING OF NURSES

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## **Abstract**

General nurses represent the largest group of workers in health care. They have two options of carrying out their profession which is given by the law No. 96/2004. They either work under specialist supervision or unsupervised. In order to obtain the license for unsupervised work, they have to submit a proof of having passed educational activities. For the license renewal every nurse needs 40 credits from educational activities pertaining to their specialization. The work of a general nurse is both physically and mentally demanding. Combining the roles of a professional worker, a mother and a wife is exceptionally difficult. Nurses have to integrate their professional and private duties with the post-graduate training program. Research findings have shown that the main obstacles to the post-graduate training perceived by the nurses are the financial demands and a lack of time. Another significant problem is the local accessibility of the training activities. These obstacles can be removed by the implementation of live on-line lectures for nurses. On-line lectures are accessible all over the Czech Republic eliminating the need to commute. In a virtual classroom the student can see the teacher and is able to communicate with him or her on-line. The lecturer can respond to the students the same way as in classic teaching. The virtual classroom contains many interactive elements and the lecturer may support their presentation by audio-visual features and can engage the students in the learning process. In the retrospective evaluation of the on-line lectures, the students acknowledged this form of study as inspirational, they expressed their satisfaction and they are interested in continuing their learning through the virtual environment.

**Key words:** nurse; education; online technology

## **Introduction**

This article deals with the issue of registration of non-medical health care workers as the system of documentation of lifelong education. Contemporary world lays increased demands in all disciplines, particularly in health care. In order to ensure provision of high-quality nursing care by competent workers, conditions for authorization to execute health care profession independently without professional supervision had to be set. And those conditions are defined by the registration system specified by law.



## Current Situation

General nurses represent the largest group of workers in health care. [4] They have two options of carrying out their profession which is given by the law No. 96/2004. [7] They either work under specialist supervision or unsupervised. In order to obtain the license for unsupervised work, they have to submit a proof of having passed educational activities. For the license renewal every nurse need 40 credits from educational activities pertaining to their specialization. [6] The work of a general nurse is both physically and mentally demanding. Combining the roles of a professional worker, a mother and a wife is exceptionally difficult. Nurses have to integrate their professional and private duties with the post-graduate training program. Research findings have shown that the main obstacles to the post-graduate training perceived by the nurses are the financial demands and a lack of time. [2] Another significant problem is the local accessibility of the training activities. [1]

## Solution Proposal

These obstacles can be removed by the implementation of on-line live lectures for nurses. On-line lectures are accessible all over the Czech Republic eliminating the need to commute. In a virtual classroom the student can see the teacher and is able to communicate with him or her on-line. The lecturer can respond to the students the same way as in classic teaching. The virtual classroom contains many interactive elements and the lecturer may support their presentation by audio-visual features and can engage the students in the learning process. Online lectures take place in the certified virtual environment ONIF, that is operated by the Company iCORD International Ltd [3]

## Pilot Survey

A questionnaire survey has been carried out, in which 184 respondents from all regions of the Czech Republic have been approached. 24 % of those questioned have stated that their place of work is at emergency and the remaining 76 % respondents at inpatient wards. The most acceptable form of education for 48 % of the respondents is passive attendance and for 15 % it is active participation in conferences and seminars. 21 % of the respondents have stated that for them the most acceptable is taking part in certified courses. Some experience with e-learning form of education has 30 % of



respondents as opposed to the remaining 70 % who have not had any opportunity to try this out. 92 % of those asked have expressed their interest in trying out on-line schooling and 8 % have not. (Figure 1) When choosing an educational activity, the venue is the biggest priority for 30 % of respondents, the topic for 38 % and for 23 % it is affordability. When asked whether the respondent has access to the internet at home, 97 % of the questioned replied in the affirmative and 3 % in the negative. From the survey it seems to be apparent that the vast majority of respondents are interested in online education and that is the reason why we have started our cooperation with the non-profit organization SEPPIA Citizens Association, which has embarked on putting these lectures into practice.

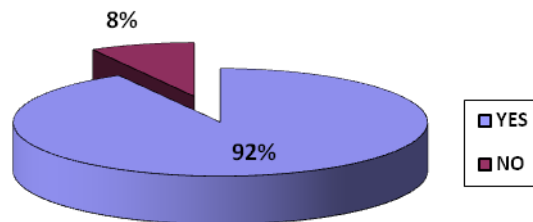


Figure 1: Would you be interested in trying out online education?

## SEPPIA Citizens Association

SEPPIA is a citizen's association which dedicates itself to aiding to and integration of disadvantaged persons such as the handicapped and disabled, women on maternity leave, elderly people and home carers of related persons. This association had, by 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011, carried out 24 accredited lectures with 187 students participating, which on average amounts to 7.8 students per one lecture. An assessment questionnaire for evaluating of the lectures by students has been made and 48 students in total have responded. 100 % of those who submitted their replies stated that they are fully satisfied with the online schooling and all have described the entry into the interactive classroom as very easy. 80% of the replying students are satisfied with the interactive features in the online environment, 96 % found this environment inspirational and 76 % are satisfied with the quality of the lectures.



## Students' Verbal Evaluation:

„an excellent idea“

„that's exactly the form of schooling that's been missing here“

„I'm looking forward to the following lectures“

„I'll definitely recommend it to my fellow students/colleagues“

„the form is perfectly suitable, it's possible to respond to everything and join in“

„it also suits me because I can stay at home without having to commute, I can communicate my opinions right off“

„this form of lectures should have been here a long time ago, for those who have little kids as well as those working shifts – it's ideal “

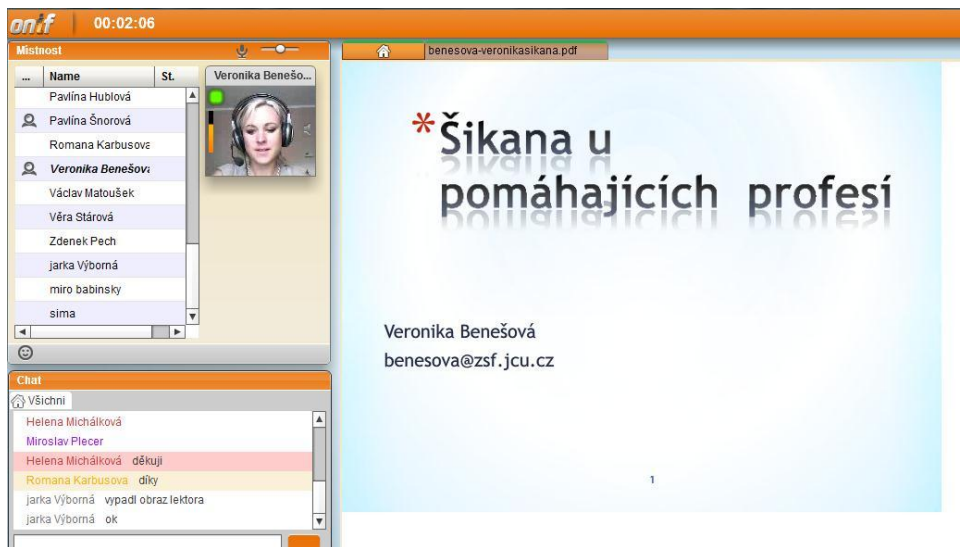


Figure 2. Virtual Lecture Room Onif

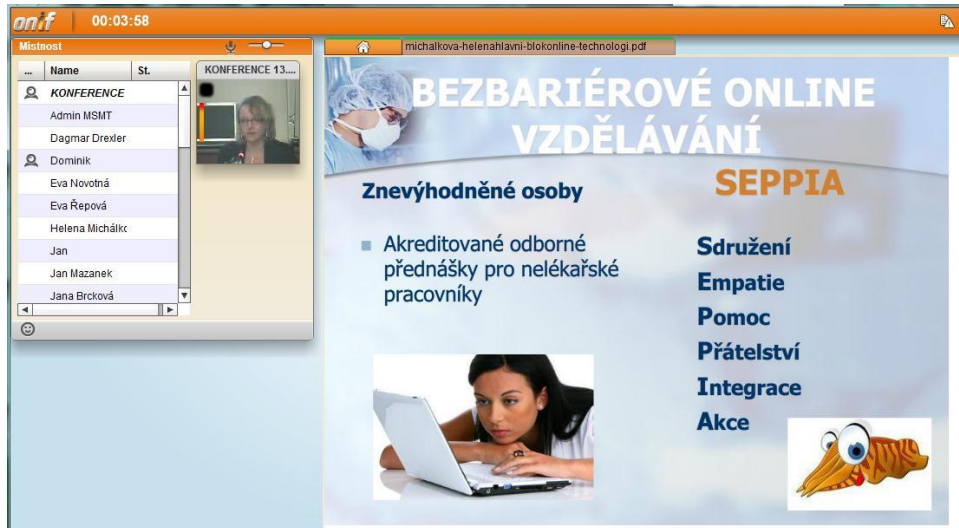


Figure 3. Virtual Lecture Room Onif

## Why Online?

- LIVE lectures
- without any need to travel
- low financial expenses
- available on the whole territory of the Czech Rep. and Slovakia
- lecturer teaches from home – saves travel time
- mothers do not require babysitting
- innovations in the field readily available

## Conclusion

The article has provided prove for the fact that in further education nurses give preference to passive participation in events such as seminars and conferences and that the vast majority of nurses find it necessary to educate themselves in their field. The biggest obstacle for nurses consists in financial and time demandingness of the educational events. These barriers can be removed by implementation of live on-line lectures for nurses.



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