CRITICAL CARE NURSES OPINIONS REGARDING CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INFORMATION LETTER – PHASE 2

Dear Colleague

My name is Ann Young and I am currently a post graduate student for the Master of Science (Intensive Care Nursing) at the University of the Witwatersrand, Department of Nursing Education. I would like to conduct a research project on “Critical care nurses opinions regarding continuous professional development”. The purpose of this study is to explore and describe critical care nurses opinions regarding CPD, the current extent of their participation in CPD programs and their perceived barriers to CPD programs. I would like to invite you to participate in this study.

A literature review has shown that nurses working in ICU’s are constantly challenged with nursing critically ill patients, emerging diseases, increased workload, occupational hazards, mastering new technology, complex patient assessment and interventions (AJCCN,2003) to provide world class care, in state of the art ICU’s. There is currently no accredited post registration CPD program for critical care nurses to support and develop them to optimally carry out their specialized function.

The study’s data collection will involve critical care nurses voluntarily completing a questionnaire. It is envisaged that the data collection will take place 01 May – 15 June 2011.

Your participation in this data collection process is entirely voluntary. If you agree to participate, please complete the consent form. Participants are allowed to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. The questionnaire should take approximately 20 – 30 minutes to complete. To ensure confidentiality and anonymity, code letters and numbers will be used during data collection and reporting.

I appreciate that you will not derive any benefit from participation in this study directly. However, it is foreseen that the outcome of the research may provide for a point of departure for the development of a CPD program for critical care nurses. It is expected that critical care nurses will clearly identify their specific CPD needs as a nursing speciality and as individuals.

Approval for this study and its procedures has been obtained from the relevant persons and research committees of the University of the Witwatersrand.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information letter. Should you require any further information regarding this study or your rights as a study participant, you are welcome to contact me at the contact details as below.

Kind regards

Ann Young

Date: __________________________

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