



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF NURSES IN THE COVID-19 VACCINATION?

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ABSTRACT Nurses are front line workers in each health related crisis not only during Covid-19 pandemic. After invention of vaccines it is a major challenge to deliver the vaccines to whole population within least time. Nurses played vital role in care of patient in Covid-19 pandemic as well as in vaccination. Nurses take always each crisis in positive way and manage, control the situation as soon as possible. Nurses utilize their power, experience and skill to reach a community and provide the vaccines. They are also part of planning, monitoring and delivery of the vaccine with health education. Responding to the presumption, we conducted a review of the role of nurse during the covid-19 vaccination.

KEYWORDS : Pandemic, Covid-19, Vaccination, CHW, Covid-19 vaccine

The year 2021 marks the 201st anniversary of F. Nightingale's birth an event has sparked enhanced focus on the potential of the nursing profession.¹ Currently in different part of the world, this pandemic has left many individual living under numerous restrictions and fighting the fear of death. Although we all are well aware of the great role of Health Care Professionals like Doctors, Nurses, Optometrist, Radiologists and Physiotherapists during this pandemic. But Nurses played the very important role from starting to the almost end of this pandemic.

Virus out break (pandemics) has occurred regularly over the nearly 300 years ago. In the past every time new viruses had attacked on the human community. From the past two decades, new viruses associated with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and the H1N1 epidemics have exposed health system challenges in responding to overwhelming levels of morbidity and mortality (Koh et al., 2005). On 11, March 2020, World Health Organization (WHO), Corona Virus Disease-2019 (Covid-19) as a global pandemic, there was deep concern at the severity, levels of transmission, and societal and economic disturbance occurring globally.

Nurses are front line workers in each health related crisis not only during Covid-19 pandemic. After invention of vaccines it is a major challenge to deliver the vaccines to whole population within least time. Nurses played vital role in care of patient in Covid-19 pandemic as well as in vaccination. Nurses take always each crisis in positive way and manage, control the situation as soon as possible. Nurses utilize their power, experience and skill to reach a community and provide the vaccines. They are also part of planning, monitoring and delivery of the vaccine with health education. And we already aware that all types of vaccinations given by only Nurses in general routine too. Responding to the presumption, we conducted a review of the role of nurse during the covid-19 vaccination.

We conducted scoping review using the journals, WHO implementation support guide and more. The search term included Covid-19 or SARS-CoV-2 and vaccination or immunization and Nurses/ Community health workers/ Public health workers. The inclusion criteria were (1) any articles describing Covid-19 vaccination (2) any article describe role of nurse in delivery of vaccination (3) article written in English. Article involved health workers, community health worker and not only nurses were excluded.

The using journals provide article details in supplementary table A. Table A1 shows the type of the nurse's role in vaccination and examples from articles. We identified 4 major categories to describe nurse's roles: Planning and coordination (n=4), identification of target population (n=3), vaccine acceptance and uptake (n=2), vaccination rollout tracking and follow-up (n=1).

First, we identified that planning and coordination was more times described 4 articles out of 11 articles. For example, moving

vaccination hours from early mornings to afternoons in areas where mothers are busy in the fields or selling the market in the morning. Nurses identify the main community groups and where they are located, determine their level of engagement.² Second, identification of target population was described in 3 out of 11.

In covid-19 vaccination community health workers closely related to the interest in understanding how to balance the work load of community health service staff is the interest in determining whether CHWs should be assigned a targeted population size and how this population size might impact CHW productivity, coverage and health outcomes.³

Finally, it was identified that vaccine acceptance and uptake, vaccination rollout tracking and follow-up described 2 times out of 11 articles. Mobilizing and bringing the people to the immunization center will be a significant hurdle.⁴

Nurses are in a unique position to enhance Covid-19 vaccine uptake, given their ranking as the nation's most trusted professional together with their important role in the care of victims of Covid-19.⁶

Table: A

Activity	Nurse, Community health worker roles
Planning and coordination	Conduct vaccine related surveys, focus groups and community meetings as part of the preparatory/ planning process
Identification of target population	Map location of priority target groups within communities to be vaccinated in the first wave of vaccination and others as more vaccines becomes available, and register households to ensure accurate forecasting.
Vaccine acceptance and uptake	Mobilize community influencers such as teachers, youth groups, women and men's groups, and community based organizations, to create an enabling environment for covid-19 vaccination acceptance and uptake.
Vaccination rollout tracking and follow-up	Help with vaccination status verification and scheduling. ⁵ Preserve medical records, call for follow-up and tracking the schedule of vaccination. Monitoring the time and schedule too.

Nurses routinely play critical roles in new vaccine introduction including in planning, identification of target people community engagement and mobilization service delivery and in tracking and follow up.⁷

They are well placed to participate in micro -planning with other health workers and stake holders to develop and execute strategies to reach people outside of clinical settings (Particularly those who are mobile "hard to find" or may have difficulty travelling to a fixed site) and identify older adults or other target groups in the community. Their contribution can inform sub-marginal facility led and local action micro-planning process for covid-19 vaccine distribution.⁸

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