

Almodovar, F (2011). The Level of Clinical Competencies of the Senior Nursing Students: Basis For Proposed Enhancement Program. Lorma Colleges, City of San Fernando, La Union.

*Key Words : Level of Competencies, Senior Nursing Students*

### **Abstract**

This study was undertaken to determine the level of clinical competencies of the senior nursing students of Lorma Colleges. The actual clinical performance was based on the students' grades on their related learning experiences subject for the final phase of the second semester, School Year 2008-2009.

It employed the descriptive correlation method and used the weighted mean, t-test, analysis of variance and pearson product moment correlation test as the statistical tools in treating the data.

The senior nursing students were found to be highly competent in all the eleven key areas of responsibility. Age and gender were not a determinant in the level of clinical competencies of the students except for the area of clinical exposure.

On the basis of the findings, the study concluded that the respondents are knowledgeable and skillful in the eleven key areas of responsibility. The age and gender do not have an effect on their level of competencies but high competencies is associated with area of exposure. In relation to hospital and school facilities, Lorma Colleges conforms with CMO 14 Series of 2009 which enables the senior nursing students to integrate knowledge and develop nursing skills appropriate in the effective provision of holistic care. As regards to the level of clinical competencies of the respondents, it is minimally congruent with their actual clinical performance. These findings and conclusions, thereby need a program to further enhance the clinical competencies of the students on the 11 key areas of responsibilities.

Based on the conclusions, it is recommended that the Lorma College of Nursing needs a continuous enhancement on the theoretical knowledge, hands-on training and critical thinking skills of the nursing students. The provision of a virtual simulation laboratory would also facilitate learning of their skills. A parallel study can also be undertaken to include other schools of nursing and to consider the implementation of the proposed enhanced program and other recommendations to improve and sustain the competencies of the students in the clinical areas.