

Exploring the strategy for the enablers and barriers to implementing a skin integrity program in the Middle Eastern countries (Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, and Egypt).

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Introduction: Skin integrity and wound management are essential components of nursing practice. Nursing professionalisation leads to greater recognition of the importance of specialised knowledge and skills in wound management.

Aim: The study aims to identify the enablers and barriers to implementing a successful skin integrity programme in nursing in the Middle East, specifically Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, and Egypt, through the lens of professionalisation.

Method: Purposive and snowball sampling identified the relevant key decisions makers and gatekeepers in the chosen countries such as hospital directors, nursing directors, assistant directors of nursing, nurses (general/specialised nurses, team leaders, head nurses), doctors, directors of the nursing directorate, and policymakers in the Ministry of health. The primary data were collected using semi-structured in-depth interviews conducted between November 2021 to November 2022. A total number of 32 interviews were conducted and explored the current and actual practices in skincare and wound management in the Middle East. To help in an in-depth understanding of nurses' roles in relation to skincare and wound management, therefore, interviews were conducted until the saturation point is reached. For data presentation, thematic analysis was used and classified into three main themes.

Results: A number of critical issues to conducting research during times of pandemic and the impact of power relations operational within the research will be reflected on. The research findings will contribute to understanding the wider structural forces that impact on the development of the nursing profession in the Middle East and specifically to developing specialist tissue viability nurses.

Conclusion: Developing nursing specialities in wound care in Middle Eastern countries requires addressing both structural and organisational issues.