Advanced Nursing Practice in Anaesthesia - consensual definition of a role in healthcare

Background

Healthcare systems worldwide – and so Swiss healthcare, too – are facing new challenges. Highly qualified professionals with a Master of Science (MSc) degree and advanced clinical qualifications can contribute to ensure high-quality medical care and meet the growing needs of the population. Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) roles are described and established internationally in the field of nursing. Such roles are emerging in Switzerland and are, therefore, still rare. However, in the field of anaesthesia, the role of the professional specialisation in nursing, the so-called specialist nurses, is well established already. As in any other fields, APN anaesthesia have the potential to close a gap in Swiss anaesthesia in general and in the care pathway of pain therapy more specifically.

Project objective

In this dissertation, the gaps in anaesthesia that may be potentially addressed by integrating APN anaesthesia are being determined for the Swiss setting. The role of APN anaesthesia for the Swiss healthcare system will be defined and submitted for consultation to an interprofessional stakeholder group to obtain consensus .

Methods

For this purpose, an action research approach based on the PRECEDE-PROCEED model (Green, 2005) and guided by the PEPPA framework (Bryant-Lukosius & DiCenso, 2004) is conducted.

First step: A systematic review of relevant literature is conducted in the form of a scoping review to determine the roles and competencies of APN anaesthesia.

Second step: Focus group interviews with various stakeholders are conducted to determine gaps in care and the need for improvement of anaesthesia care as well as pain therapy.

Third step: Subsequently, a Delphi study with interprofessional stakeholders is conducted to determine the acceptability of the scope of practice and competencies of APN anaesthesia for the Swiss healthcare setting in order to obtain consensus.