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Title: What are the solutions to the key challenges facing primary care nurses delivering respiratory care in the United Kingdom?

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Body: Aim To discuss solutions to the current key themed challenges identified previously for primary care nurses delivering respiratory care in the United Kingdom. Method: We have previously described the qualitative research involving 12 primary care nurses (60 minute interviews) and four 90 minute focus groups of nurses purposively representative of primary care respiratory interested nurses in the United Kingdom. We have also published results of this research (IPCRG Abstract 202; 2012). We now describe some of the suggested solutions gained from discussions of a group of clinicians involved in health care education (involving primary care, community, specialist nurses and general practitioners). Results The initial research identified four key challenging themes: time, professional isolation, working with patients and lack of resources. The key areas identified to facilitate addressing these challenges were themed into two broad areas - which will address all the challenge areas. Firstly, leadership skills (including time management, influencing and negotiating skills) and secondly communication skills (eg motivational interviewing and shared decision making techniques). Conclusions It is likely that with changes in the continuing professional development offered to practice nurses many of the key challenges currently faced could be addressed. This however would require influencing and negotiating skills at practice, area and national levels and a desire from practice nurses to engage in leadership and communication skills development. With these inputs a real change could be obtained which would improve clinician and patient satisfaction.