

Programme leading to qualification in the adult branchof nursing - curriculum requirements and guidelines

National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting for Northern Ireland - New standards on the supervision and assessment of students in practice

Intellectual disability nursing in Ireland: Identifying its development and future
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Abstract
As a profession, intellectual disability nursing has often come under scrutiny and been called into question. Since its acceptance as an individual nursing profession in 1994 it has been subject to many changes in the way it is practised and the way it is perceived. These changes have been in response to national and international reports and changing attitudes. The changes have led to the current position where intellectual disability nursing is a registered nursing profession. In contrast to other branches of the discipline of intellectual disability nursing is unique to Ireland and the United Kingdom, there is a responsibility on intellectual disability nurses to identify their unique identity and their responses to the demands of changing services. This article aims to highlight the development of intellectual disability nursing in Ireland and identifies implications for the future.

Key words:
Care provision, evidence based practice, intellectual disability nursing, nurse education, research base.

Introduction
Intellectual disability nursing is one of the medical branches of nursing in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Its roots can be traced back to 1990. Originally known as the branch service referred to as registered nurses mental retardation (RNM), this later changed to registered mental handicap nurses (RMHN), and at present the term used is registered nurses with learning disabilities (RNLD). The care of people with learning disabilities in Ireland was originally one of institutional care and segregation from the community, but in the 1980s a social model of care began to be implemented and services began transitioning to community settings. Intellectual

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