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Summary

Beyond the basics: Navigating the IBD nurse curriculum for excellence

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Nurses

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An IBD nurse from Vienna presented a framework for excellence in inflammatory bowel disease nursing based on the intersection of three core variables: dedicated time, protected institutional funding, and advanced clinical competence anchored in the recently published third NECCO consensus statements.

KEY POINTS

- The speaker stated that clinical excellence in IBD nursing requires the simultaneous presence of dedicated time, protected budget, and specialized knowledge, with failure in any domain compromising patient outcomes through understaffing, burnout, or inability to deliver complex care.
- Nurse-led rapid access advice lines for IBD flare triage reportedly result in statistically significant reductions in unnecessary emergency room visits and costly hospital admissions, representing a quantifiable return on investment.
- Holistic nursing assessment should extend beyond mucosal healing to systematically evaluate patient-reported outcomes including health-related quality of life, debilitating fatigue, psychosocial distress, fecal incontinence, and sexual dysfunction.
- Advanced IBD nurses must demonstrate pharmacological mastery over biologics including anti-TNF regimes, anti-integrins, interleukin inhibitors, JAK inhibitors, and S1P1 receptor modulators, executing rigid safety protocols including pre-treatment screening and live vaccine timing.
- The speaker promoted ECCO's free e-learning platform featuring a second-edition IBD nurse curriculum with 16 sections, interactive quizzes, and certificate completion, available at no cost to healthcare professionals aged 35 or younger or in training.

– The speaker recommended attendance at the March 2025 ECCO Congress in Copenhagen, highlighting the NECCO School (now open registration without nomination) and NECCO network meeting as valuable one-day courses for IBD nurses and allied health professionals.

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