

COMMENTARY

Advancing Urology Nursing Through Accredited Education: The EAUN's System for Continued Professional Development

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Continuing professional development (CPD) or Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) is pivotal in maintaining high standards of not just urological, but all nursing care. The European Association of Urology Nurses (EAUN) has implemented a system to accredit educational activities, supporting nurses in documenting and achieving lifelong learning. This article outlines the significance of accrediting CPD or CNE through a single system, and indicates its benefits for nurses, healthcare institutions, and patients.

As healthcare evolves, nurses must pursue ongoing education to maintain high-quality care. EAUN accredits nursing education resources, ensuring that those displaying the EAUN logo meet quality standards for professional development. CPD is crucial for nurses as it helps them stay updated with the latest nursing advancements, technologies, and evidence-based practices. Whilst also ensuring quality improvements in care, safety, satisfaction and staff retention [1]. This commitment to learning not only enhances patient safety but also empowers nurses to adapt to new protocols and deliver optimal outcomes. The EAUN plays a vital role by thoroughly evaluating educational materials and programs, thus helping nurses identify trustworthy sources for their professional growth. Accreditation and endorsement by the EAUN signify that a resource has undergone rigorous assessment for relevance, accuracy, and educational value, giving nurses confidence that they are investing their time in recognised, high-quality professional development opportunities.

CPD or CNE is essential for preparing healthcare professionals to deliver high-quality patient care. Accreditation serves as a mechanism to ensure that nursing education programs adhere to established standards of quality and academic rigour.

Programs that have achieved accreditation equip individuals with the requisite knowledge and competencies to practice effectively within the healthcare sector. The process of accreditation involves a comprehensive evaluation of educational programs to determine their quality. The EAUN provides a framework that allows for the recognition or accreditation of educational programs based on the learning activities undertaken by individuals, thereby awarding credits for such activities. This system assures that educational offerings have met at least the minimum required standard of quality. Also going some way to delivering portability and mobility which are crucial aspects highlighted in reports from the European Commission (EC) and the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) reports, which underscore the fragmented recognition of CPD [2, 3]. The EAUN's single credit and certification system can bridge these national gaps, supporting EU workforce mobility under the professional qualifications directive.

At the time of writing this paper, the EAUN currently offers a range of accredited courses and endorsements to enhance the professional development of urology nurses. These include the Nephrostomy Pigtail Catheter e-course by Aalborg University Hospital (Denmark) and webinars such as 'Getting it right the first time (GIRFT)—a concept to optimise the bladder cancer pathway'. Other courses cover topics like pelvic organ prolapse, sexual health in men treated for prostate cancer, and managing overactive bladder syndrome. EAUN also endorses courses provided by institutions like Barts Health NHS Trust (UK) 'Urology Nursing Education Day—Fundamentals of Urology' and the European Cancer Organisation, 'TRANSITION, Advanced training programme for equipping HPCs with new digital skills' further validating that

Key Points

- Importance of Accredited Education in Urology Nursing through CPD and CNE is essential for maintaining high standards in nursing care.
- There are benefits for all nurses especially through using The EAUN's single credit and certification system, which helps bridge national gaps in CPD recognition, supporting lifelong learning and supporting workforce mobility across the EU.
- Engagement is paramount to ensure barriers can be overcome and that learning is accessible and relevant.

these educational contributions meet stringent quality standards. Additionally, collaborations with organisations such as European Association of Urology, University of Michigan, University of Glasgow and COR2ED in areas such as continence health (policy reform), renal cell and prostate cancer (online courses), as well as 'Guidelines for Sexual Health Care for the Prostate Cancer Patient: Recommendations of an International Panel' (guidelines). Not forgetting podcasts, master classes and international conferences ensures that nurses are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills in their field. These initiatives collectively contribute to the continuous professional development of urology nurses, fostering excellence in patient care and professional growth.

The importance of accreditation for nurses cannot be overstated. While some countries do not mandate that nurses attend accredited programmes or possess formal accreditation, others, such as The Netherlands, require successful completion of recognised courses for five-year 'Nurse Practitioner' registration. In this context, the European Urology—Accredited Continuing Nursing Education (EU-ACNE) plays a crucial role by enabling nurses to accumulate essential accreditation points. Therefore, the EAUN has taken the initiative to offer a single system available to each member to facilitate the accreditation of CND/CPE activities for the registration of gained credit points.

In addition, accreditation serves as evidence of ongoing professional development and distinguishes candidates in a competitive job market, for use in interviews. Engaging with the EAUN accreditation system or participating in accredited programmes provides both individuals and their employers with assurance regarding the quality of education received. Accreditation by EU-ACNE signifies recognition of these standards. Furthermore, the accumulation of credit points allows healthcare professionals to formally demonstrate their commitment to lifelong learning. Additionally, those involved in developing or delivering educational activities can apply for accreditation, ensuring participants receive verified credits and the confidence that the content meets established standards.

CPD or CNE are essential tools for ongoing professional growth, helping nurses maintain and elevate their knowledge within their areas of practice. These programmes foster both personal and professional development, enriching the professionals' experiences. Most importantly, CPD/CNE as previously stated

enhances the quality of patient care by consistently improving skills, expanding professional perspectives, and keeping professionals abreast of the latest advancements. By aligning with and utilising the World Health Organisation (WHO) Academy (3) and International Council of Nurses (ICN) (4) competency-based learning principles, it signals global standards compliance, positioning EAUN as a reference point for urology nursing CPD in Europe. Anchoring EAUN's accreditation work as imperative in international best practice, enhances its credibility, positioning EAUN as a leader in CPD and accreditation in urological specialist nursing. This opens opportunities for future joint accreditation agreements on projects such as educational frameworks, 'Educational Framework for Urology Nursing'.

Accreditation offers additional advantages, including enhanced patient outcomes, the ability to identify strengths and areas for growth within one's career pathway, improved communication and staff empowerment, and a reinforced culture of quality improvement. Each EAUN member is provided with a EU-CNE account. The interface is designed to be user-friendly, allowing easy access and straightforward navigation (Figure 1). This platform serves as a repository for credits earned through accredited events and activities, creating a portfolio that can be presented as evidence of a commitment to high-quality patient care (Figures 2 and 3).

Through the embedding outcome-based evaluation, it ensures CPD/CNE demonstrates changes in clinical practice and patient outcomes, not just attendance. Credits can be obtained through various activities undertaken by the individual. These include lectures, presentations, posters or videos. Publications and the creation of educational materials also count. Committee participation is another way to earn credits. Reading articles in recognised urological journals, followed by the completion of related multiple-choice questions, is also valid. To accrue credits, the event or activity must be accredited by a national or international accreditation authority, such as one within your own country or the EAUN. Further information is available at the EU-ACNE website: <https://eu-acme.org/>.

Comparing EAUN's CPD and accreditation programmes with international organisations such as the ICN CPD guidelines [3], WHO's lifelong learning frameworks for health professionals [4], and accreditation standards from organisations like the American Nurses Credentialing Centre (ANCC), EFN or the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is essential. Identifying overlaps and gaps will allow EAUN's work to demonstrate alignment or innovation relative to these frameworks. Comparison ensures that EAUN's CPD offerings and accreditation system are on par with global standards, enhancing quality, credibility and attractiveness to members across different countries.

Embedding EAUN's CPD/CNE and accreditation approach within the lifelong learning concept, which encompasses learning across multiple contexts such as clinical, academic, community, and virtual settings, is essential. Highlighting how EAUN's accreditation program addresses formal and informal learning opportunities in urology nursing is crucial. Linking EAUN activities to published research on the effectiveness of CPD in improving patient outcomes is important. The role of accreditation in professional identity and

Register new activity

Before you start registering your activity, please make sure you scanned or took a picture of your documental proof!

Tips:

- Make sure there is sufficient light (no flash);
- Place your document flat on a flat surface;
- Create 1 full-frame image per document: .jp (e) g, .gif, .png, .bmp, .tif (f), .doc (x) or .pdf;
- Allowed file size per document: maximum 5 MB.

Check MyCME-How To's for eligible document types and tips on how to register your activities.

FIGURE 1 | Registering CNE/CPD activity.

Credit registry report

The yearly Credit Registry Reports will be generated electronically and send to you by e-mail.

Please make sure your personal data and e-mail address are correct, so that the EU-ACME office can send the report to you on time and to the correct e-mail address.

Summary of collected credits Show all years

	Credit summary report					CME/CNE	CPD	Total
	CME Category 1	CME Category 2	CPD Category 3	CPD Category 4	CPD Category 5			
2021	0.0	13.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	13.0	5.0	18.0
2022	0.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	13.0
2023	0.0	17.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.0	0.0	17.0
2024	0.0	17.5	0.0	0.0	5.0	17.5	5.0	22.5
2025	0.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.5	0.0	15.5
Total	0.0	76.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	76.0	10.0	86.0

Overview of registered activities

Event start date *
01-01-2025

Event end date *
31-12-2025

Subspecialty
Select subspecialty

[Refresh overview](#) [Register missing activity](#)

FIGURE 2 | Online credit report.

mobility, and the interprofessional and cross-border recognition of qualifications in Europe, strengthens the credibility of EAUN's program. Meta-syntheses emphasise that CPD is critical for professional identity, upskilling, licensure and keeping nursing practice evidence-based.

Nurses are more engaged when learning is easily accessible, relevant, and supported by leadership. Informal and practice-based learning is also highly valued [3, 5]. Systematic reviews show that CPD improves nursing care quality, patient safety, nurse satisfaction, retention, and even lowers healthcare costs.

Name:		Page: 1 of 1
Country: United Kingdom		Date: 1 October 2025
EU-ACME/CNE Member Id:		
Period: 01-01-2025 till 31-12-2025		

This **Credit Registry Report**, for the period **01-01-2025 - 31-12-2025**, specifies activities registered in this period together with assigned credits. The report states activities accredited within the EU-ACME/CNE programme, for which credits are processed automatically, as well as the activities sent to us by you and/or submitted online. If you feel activities have been omitted in the Credit Registry Report, please do not hesitate to register them online via **MyCME/CNE** supplying evidence necessary for attribution of the credits. The EU-ACME/CNE Programme provides medical professionals with the system which helps them to keep track of their educational activities, irrespective of the country they practice in or where they have participated in CME/CNE/CPD activities.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact the EU-ACME/CNE office by e-mail: mycme@eu-acme.org or phone - +31 (0)26 3890846.

Code	Activity Description	Date	Approved by	Location	Cat.	Credits
ES250322-pa	Participation in: 25th International EAUN Meeting - EAUN 2025 - EAUN25 Urology Nurses	22-24 March 2025	EUAB-CNE	Madrid, Spain	2	15.5
Sub Total Cat. 2						15.5
Total						15.5

Activities marked with * are accredited according to the rules of the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists and the Polish Urological Association

Total Credits Summary

Credit summary report						Total		
	CME Category 1	CME Category 2	CPD Category 3	CPD Category 4	CPD Category 5	CME	CPD	CME+CPD
2021	0	13	0	5	0	13	5	18
2022	0	13	0	0	0	13	0	13
2023	0	17	0	0	0	17	0	17
2024	0	17.5	0	0	5	17.5	5	22.5
2025	0	15.5	0	0	0	15.5	0	15.5
Total	0	76	0	5	5	76	10	86

FIGURE 3 | Download of an example credit report.

However, measurable outcomes especially behavioural and patient impact, are often lacking in evaluations [5].

Barriers to meaningful CPD/CNE include high workloads, limited time, lack of funding, managerial support and misaligned content to real needs [1]. Reflective practice is a cornerstone of lifelong learning, encouraging self-awareness, integration of theory and practice and ongoing professional growth. Integrating reflective components such as journals and portfolios where the individual gains credits for accreditation supports self-directed learning aligned with the ‘master adaptive learner’ model [6]. By ensuring modules clearly reflect everyday practice and experiences, allow informal learning, and are backed by organisational support, EAUN can enhance the effectiveness and appeal of its CPD and accreditation offerings and overcome barriers.

In conclusion, the EAUN’s commitment to CPD and accreditation is pivotal in maintaining high standards of urological nursing care. By aligning with international standards and embedding outcome-based evaluations, the EAUN ensures that its educational offerings are credible, relevant and impactful. The comprehensive accreditation system not only supports nurses in their professional growth but also enhances patient care quality, safety and satisfaction. Through strategic partnership the EAUN positions itself as a leader in specialist urological nursing CPD, fostering excellence and innovation in the field. This dedication to lifelong learning and professional development ultimately benefits individuals, healthcare institutions and patients alike. Ensuring that the highest standards of care are consistently met.

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Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

Data Availability Statement

Data sharing not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

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