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Plan to set up GCC nursing care model

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NURSING experts from across the GCC gathered at the First Creating a Culturally Competent Caring Model of Nursing Symposium on Sunday to conceptualise a unified GCC nursing care model which will be made applicable to all hospitals in the region.

"The challenge for nurses working in this region is that they are interacting with patients of widely different cultures, underpinned by an Islamic framework. Similarly, our nurses come from diverse backgrounds with different beliefs and cultures. The plan is to create a culturally competent care model for GCC countries which will guide our nurses on how to meet the patient's needs while taking into consideration the common spiritual and cultural values shared by countries in the region," said Dr Nabila Almeer, executive director of nursing at the Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) during the event.

Organised by the HMC in partnership with the Sidra Medical Research Centre and the University of Calgary in Qatar, the symposium was attended by off-

ered way. Patients can actually suffer without commonality to guide the leadership to serve the population here. The theory of human care is universal and it's a matter of how it is translated culturally to the population."

Lovering, who is also the executive director for nursing affairs at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, said that spiritual and cultural values play a major part of the Arab Muslim nurses' caring.

Other forms of care, based on culture and beliefs, were also discussed during the event, including the Adan (call to prayer in the right ear of a newborn) by father, putting the coin on the umbilicus, shaving the scalp of the baby, and use of Zam Zam (Holy Water) to a dying person among others.

"If something is done to the patient that is not harmful, and it's a cultural or religious belief, then we allow it. But if something is harmful to the patients then we talk to the families how it can be done in a different way," added Almeer.

Other speakers at the event were Wafika Suliman, Al Anoud Abu-al Saud and Hanadi Yaseen.



Nursing experts from the GCC nations at a symposium, in Doha, on Tuesday. (JALAL PATHYOOR)

of Care by Dr Sandy Lovering and will make them applicable to the region.

Watson, who is also the founder of the Watson Caring Science Institute said, "Nursing is diverse and a lot of different nationalities are here working to serve this population. And there's no commonality that guides their practice in a systematic, philosophically-gu-

countries, said Almeer.

The planned model, she said will be supported by evidence-based research which will be conducted soon. Also, the GCC nursing care model will adopt theories and models from the West, including Dr Jean Watson's Human Caring Theory: Ten Caritas Processes and the Crescent Nursing Model

from the GCC Nurse Executive Technical Committee, representatives from GCC countries, and international experts in the field.

There are about 7,000 nurses at HMC belonging to over 50 different nationalities. The patient population also represents over 50 nationalities and the trend is similar in all GCC