



Why ECCCO?

*Essentials of Critical
Care Orientation*

Designed by nurses, for nurses

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AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION
of CRITICAL-CARE
NURSES



The online courses help give the RNs new to the critical care areas the basic knowledge necessary to function in our high-acuity unit.

- Maureen Bishop,
Lakeland Health

Developed for PCU and ICU Nurses

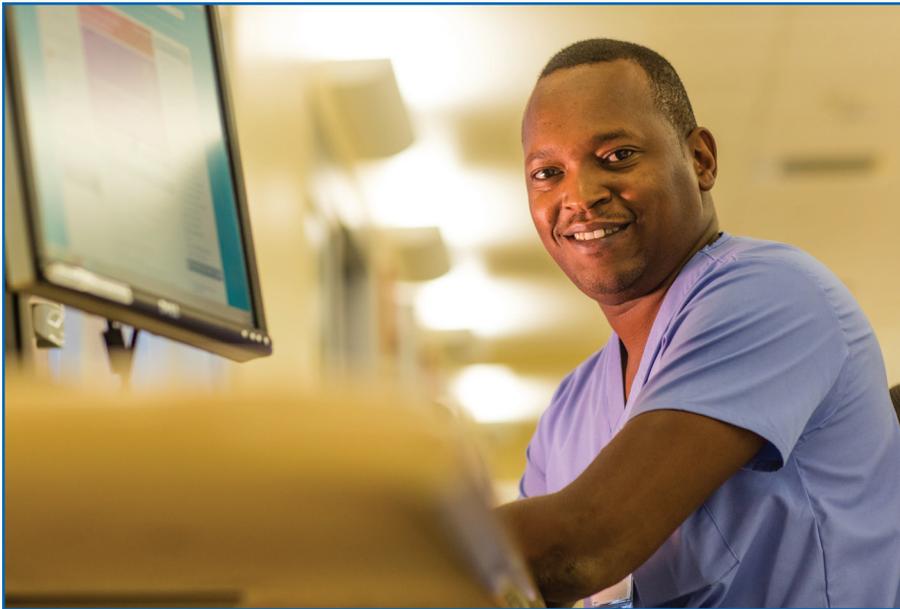
Progressive care and intensive care units are increasingly required to spend more time onboarding new staff. The cost to replace a registered nurse is estimated to be as high as \$64,000.¹ This cost continues to increase annually due to rising hourly wages and the cost of benefits for employers. As a result, recruitment and retention are important focuses.

As the largest specialty nursing organization in the world, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) fosters nursing excellence by creating standard-setting educational resources designed by progressive and critical care nurses for PCU and ICU nurses.

The screenshot shows the ECCO (ECCO) interface for 'Nursing Actions' in a traumatic brain injury scenario. The interface includes a header with 'ECCO Assessing and Managing Patients with Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injuries ICU' and a 'Tools' dropdown. Below the header, there are navigation tabs for 'NURSES' STATION' and 'TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES', and a page indicator 'Page 25/37'. The main content area is titled 'Nursing Actions' and contains a question: 'You return to Mr. Northrup's room to check on him. Which 4 aspects of this scene concern you?'. The question is accompanied by a video of a nurse in a yellow shirt talking on a phone in a hospital room. The video has several hotspots overlaid on it, labeled 'Light', 'Talking', 'ICP', 'Head', 'HOB', and 'Noise'. At the bottom of the video, there are 'PREV' and 'SUBMIT' buttons.

¹ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. *Business Case/Cost of Nurse Turnover*. Accessed April 23, 2019.

AACN offers the award-winning **Essentials of Critical Care Orientation (ECCO)** to help onboard progressive and critical care nurses. ECCO provides the latest evidence-based nursing knowledge and best practices for nurses working with acutely and/or critically ill patients. Since its creation, ECCO has been used at more than 1,100 facilities, helping to create competency in critical care nursing. ECCO ensures that nurses new to critical care receive the most relevant orientation through a comprehensive educational learning experience. This course uses an interactive web-based platform consistent with the actual practice environment.



We use ECCO because we are a small regional facility with a small ICU patient population, without a clinical nurse specialist and with limited learning opportunities for orienting nurses for SCU and cross training our med-surg staff to the SCU.

*– Sara Morris,
Allina Health System*

“Easy to navigate.
Loved that it was
broken into small,
digestible segments of
learning.”

– Kristin Lytle,
Healdsburg District
Hospital

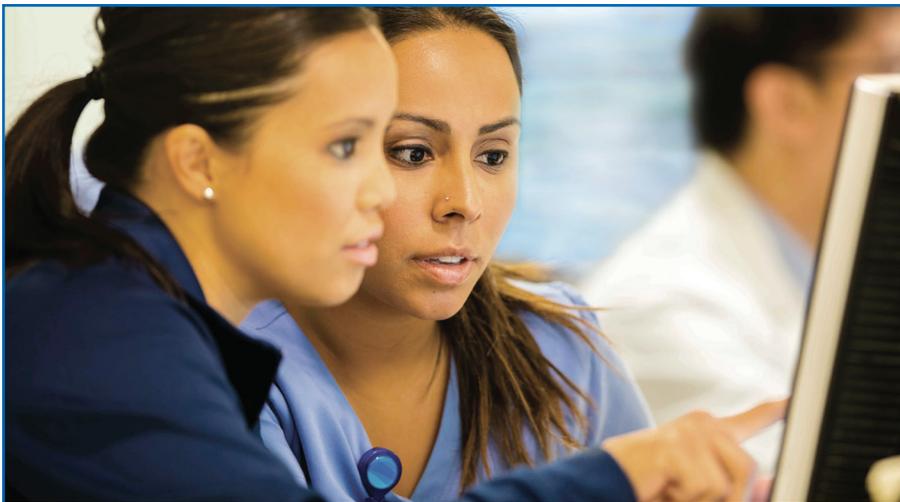
The course is applicable to any critical and progressive care environment and addresses the clinical knowledge needs of both intensive care and progressive care nurses.



ECCO’s PCU track offers specific clinical content that nurses new to progressive care need. AACN listens to ECCO customers throughout the country. ECCO incorporates feedback and improvements recommended by more than 300 progressive and critical care nurses in the field.

One Site Manager's ECCO Journey

“We started using ECCO because the process of managing our home-grown critical care course was overwhelming and inefficient. The logistics of scheduling the course when it was needed and arranging the speakers to present content were challenging. Also, it was expensive and time-consuming to maintain our home-grown critical care course, compounded by repeating the process several times a year for multiple units with varying hiring patterns. It seemed like we could never offer the



class at a time that was optimal for all new hires. After a cost analysis, we selected ECCO as an alternative. ECCO was more efficient, and we knew all students were getting the same evidence-based content. Our original critical care course was supplemented with case studies. We noted, after the students started ECCO, the case study answers improved. We were able to reduce the amount of classroom time. However, it is critical to use a blended method combining some face-to-face time with computer learning. It was favorable to the hospital to offer ECCO, because we saved money and didn't have to maintain or update the course.”

Kristine Peterson – Former Site Manager

It is not cost-effective for me to put together a home-grown course for one-to-two nurses who are orienting to ICU. ECCO materials are guaranteed to be evidence-based, which is convenience at my fingertips.

*– Amy Nugent,
Canton-Potsdam
Hospital*

Experience the ECCO Advantage

ECCO is a systematic, standardized, just-in-time educational opportunity for critical care and progressive care nurses that allows for onboarding of new high-acuity nurses as clinical operations require.

- Jen Furry,
formerly of
Orlando Health

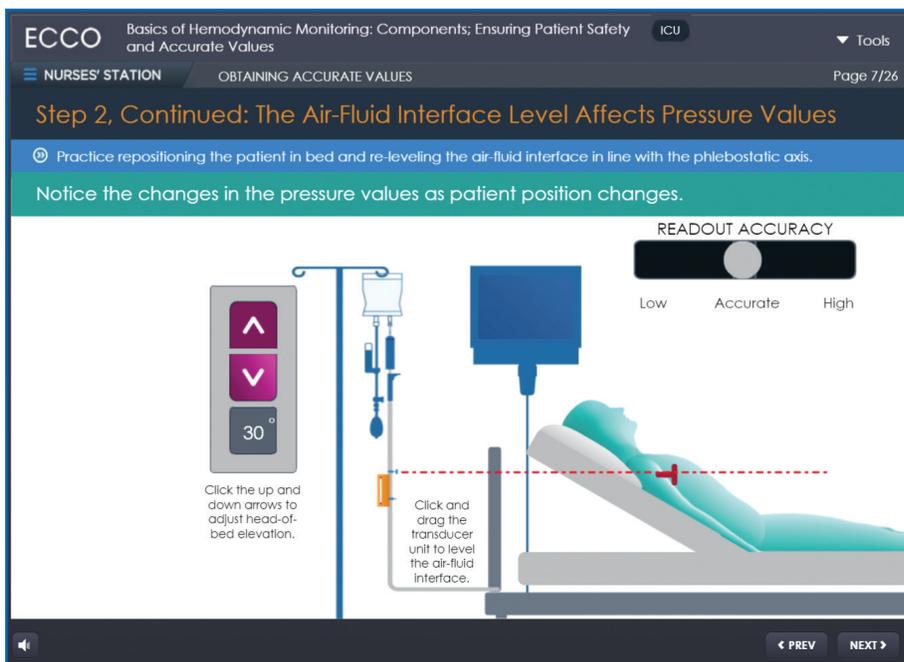
Timesaving and Cost-Effective

- Over 1,100 facilities have licensed ECCO since its initial launch in 2002.
- Over 100,000 nurses have taken the course.
- Didactic content is taught through ECCO, which allows for more time on blended learning application and simulation opportunities.
- Online-based courses offer flexibility and convenience for individuals or cohorts. Computer-based training is an effective approach to assess knowledge-based competency and critical thinking skills.
- Provides a favorable return on investment for online versus face-to-face didactic learning. A “home-grown” version requires many educator hours to develop, deliver and update. Preparation for instructor-led training sessions is estimated to be 28 hours for one hour of classroom time.²



- 83% of unit leaders saw an increase in new nurses' ability to recognize stability changes in their acutely or critically ill patients after the nurses completed ECCO.
- After ECCO, 73% of nurses rate their knowledge of evidence-based information and/or best practices as substantial or very substantial.
- After ECCO, 72% of nurses rate their confidence in applying the concepts as substantial or very substantial.

² Defelice, Robyn. "How Long to Develop One Hour of Training? Updated for 2017," *Association for Talent Development*, Accessed 9 Jan. 2018. <https://www.td.org/insights/how-long-does-it-take-to-develop-one-hour-of-training-updated-for-2017>



With ECCO, I know that all the new staff have the same foundational information. It helps tailor our simulation experiences, which we coordinate with their progression through the modules. It also helped to decrease the time spent in the classroom from 24 hours to 16 hours, because we do not have to include basic critical care knowledge.

– Joan L. Scherrer,
Abbott Northwestern
Hospital

- ECCO is applicable for nurses new to progressive or critical care or experienced nurses in other areas who wish to shift to PCU or ICU.
- Rich illustration and animation, click-to-view topics and interactive exercises are used throughout the course.
- An implementation guide helps educators incorporate critical thinking, hands-on clinical training and blended learning into their orientation programs. Educators can tailor learning to the specific needs of the learner and lesson plans.
- A variety of reports are available through robust management tools.
- Tracking of learner progress is at the assignment level, which allows greater flexibility in content assignment.
- A self-assessment tool identifies the most important orientation content that units need.
- Implementation scenarios help educators determine a course of action best suited to meet specific orientation needs and goals.

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