

Scientific governance and quality of output from the 28th Brazilian Congress of Nursing Councils

Gobernanza científica y calidad de los resultados del 28º Congreso Brasileño de Consejos de Enfermería

Governança científica e qualificação da produção do 28º Congresso Brasileiro dos Conselhos de Enfermagem

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Abstract

The aim was to report the experience of the members of the Scientific Committee of the 28th Brazilian Congress of Nursing Councils (CBCENF) in the planning, organization, and conduct of the scientific process of the event. This is a descriptive experience report with a qualitative approach, based on the activities developed by the Scientific Committee established by decree of the Federal Nursing Council, according to the guidelines established in the internal regulations of 2026. The Scientific Committee is composed of specialists in the field of Nursing, with national representation. The activities involve the elaboration of the internal regulations, the definition of the central theme and thematic axes, the organization of the submission notice, the coordination of the work evaluation process, and the structuring of the scientific program. It is expected that this will lead to increased scientific participation, standardization of evaluation criteria, and strengthening of the methodological quality of the works to be presented. It is concluded that the performance of the Scientific Committee is a strategic element to guarantee rigor, equity, transparency, and scientific excellence to the event.

Descriptors: Nursing; Health Governance; Nursing Research; Peer Review; Nursing Education; Qualitative Research.

Resumen

El objetivo fue reportar la experiencia de los miembros del Comité Científico del XXVIII Congreso Brasileño de Consejos de Enfermería (CBCENF) en la planificación, organización y conducción del proceso científico del evento. Este es un informe descriptivo de la experiencia con un enfoque cualitativo, basado en las actividades desarrolladas por el Comité Científico establecido por decreto del Consejo Federal de Enfermería, de acuerdo con las directrices establecidas en el reglamento interno de 2026. El Comité Científico está integrado por especialistas en el campo de la Enfermería, con representación nacional. Las actividades incluyen la elaboración del reglamento interno, la definición del tema central y los ejes temáticos, la organización de la convocatoria, la coordinación del proceso de evaluación de trabajos y la estructuración del programa científico. Se espera que esto conduzca a una mayor participación científica, la estandarización de los criterios de evaluación y el fortalecimiento de la calidad metodológica de los trabajos a presentar. Se concluye que el desempeño del Comité Científico es un elemento estratégico para garantizar el rigor, la equidad, la transparencia y la excelencia científica del evento.

Descriptoros: Enfermería; Gobernanza de la Salud; Investigación en Enfermería; Revisión por Pares; Educación en Enfermería; Investigación Cualitativa.

Resumo

Objetivou-se relatar a experiência dos membros da Comissão Científica do 28º Congresso Brasileiro dos Conselhos de Enfermagem (CBCENF) no planejamento, na organização e condução do processo científico do evento. Relato de experiência, de natureza descritiva e de abordagem qualitativa, fundamentado nas atividades em desenvolvimento pela Comissão Científica instituída por portaria do Conselho Federal de Enfermagem, conforme as diretrizes estabelecidas no regimento interno de 2026. A Comissão Científica é composta por especialistas da área da Enfermagem, com representatividade nacional. As atividades envolvem a elaboração do regimento interno, a definição do tema central e dos eixos temáticos, a organização do edital de submissão, a coordenação do processo de avaliação dos trabalhos e a estruturação da programação científica. Espera-se a ampliação da participação científica, a padronização dos critérios de avaliação e o fortalecimento da qualidade metodológica dos trabalhos a serem apresentados. Conclui-se que a atuação da Comissão Científica configura-se como elemento estratégico para garantir rigor, equidade, transparência e excelência científica ao evento.

Descritores: Enfermagem; Governança em Saúde; Pesquisa em Enfermagem; Revisão por Pares; Educação em Enfermagem; Pesquisa Qualitativa.



Introduction

The Brazilian Congress of Nursing Councils (CBCENF) is one of the most important spaces for the production, dissemination, and valorization of scientific knowledge in Nursing in Brazil. Promoted by the Federal Nursing Council (COFEN), the event brings together professionals, researchers, managers, and students from different regions of the country, constituting a strategic environment for the exchange of knowledge, strengthening of professional identity, and dissemination of evidence-based practices. In this context, the CBCENF assumes a central role in the articulation between science, clinical practice, and the formulation of public health policies.

Organizing scientific events of this magnitude demands a robust organizational structure capable of ensuring the quality, transparency, and credibility of the presented works. The literature¹ indicates that a systematized scientific organization, based on clear criteria and rigorous evaluation processes, is fundamental to guaranteeing the legitimacy of the results and the advancement of knowledge in each area. In this sense, the Scientific Committee occupies a strategic position, being responsible for guiding the academic direction of the event, defining the evaluation criteria for the papers, and supervising the scientific process in all its stages².

Furthermore, the Scientific Committee's work is directly related to consolidating a culture of methodological rigor and ethics in scientific production, essential elements for strengthening Nursing as a field of knowledge. The adoption of practices such as peer review, the definition of thematic axes aligned with contemporary health demands, and the use of normative instruments contribute to the quality of research and the expansion of the event's scientific impact³.

Within the context of the 28th CBCENF, the formal establishment of the Scientific Committee, through a regulatory instrument, coupled with the creation of a structured internal regulation, represents a significant advancement in the organization of the event. This process allows for the clear definition of competencies, operational flows, and evaluation criteria, promoting greater standardization, transparency, and efficiency in conducting scientific activities.

Additionally, the regional diversity and expertise of the Scientific Committee members foster a pluralistic and interdisciplinary approach, broadening the thematic scope of the congress and contributing to the representativeness of national scientific production in nursing. This characteristic reinforces the event's commitment to equity, inclusion, and the appreciation of the different realities of healthcare in Brazil.

In the case of the 28th CBCENF, this centrality gains special relevance given the definition of the theme "Nursing as a pillar of universal health coverage," approved in plenary session, and the organization of the congress into thematic axes focused on care, education, and work management, technology, ethics, politics, and professional regulation. These elements give substance to the scientific proposal of

the event by articulating contemporary priorities of Nursing with the challenges of universal coverage, the qualification of care, and the strengthening of health systems, making the role of the Scientific Committee even more relevant in the process of organizing and inducing strategic agendas for the profession. Given this scenario, it becomes relevant to systematize and share experiences related to the scientific organization of the event, especially regarding the strategies adopted, the challenges faced, and the potential identified throughout the process.

Thus, this study aims to report the experience of the members of the Scientific Committee of the 28th CBCENF in the organization and operation of the scientific activities of the congress, highlighting their contribution to the qualification of scientific production and to the strengthening of Nursing as a field of knowledge.

Methodology

This is an experience report⁴, with a qualitative and descriptive approach, developed from the experiences of the members of the Scientific Committee of the 28th CBCENF. The construction of the report was based on institutional documents, including the ordinance appointing the committee and the internal regulations of the event, as well as on the organizational practices developed throughout the process.

The experience took place within the Cofen/Corens system, a federal agency responsible for the standardization, discipline, and oversight of the professional practice of nursing throughout the national territory⁵. This institutional scenario involves ongoing dialogue with public and private health services, higher education institutions, SUS (Brazilian Unified Health System) management bodies, and organizations linked to science, technology, and innovation policies in health. This context allows for the upholding of ethics, quality of nursing care, and patient safety, especially when it offers the opportunity to expand and update the scientific qualifications of its practitioners, contributing to the reduction of recklessness, malpractice, and negligence.

It should be noted that the preparation and dissemination of this institutional experience report were authorized by the Federal Nursing Council, through a formal letter of approval, ensuring compliance with ethical, institutional, and transparency principles in the use of information. The activities of the Scientific Committee (SC), developed throughout 2026, materialized the strategic role of Cofen in strengthening nursing as a science in Brazil. Through technical meetings at its headquarters in Brasília and debates at events of the Cofen/Corens system, the SC allowed for conceptual maturation, in-depth discussions, and the progressive construction of the normative text for the largest scientific event in the nursing segment in Latin America.

The experience reported refers to the process of structuring the activities of the Scientific Committee of the 28th CBCENF, developed throughout 2026, during the preparatory phase of the event. The systematization of the report was built based on the institutional experience of the



committee members in the planning, discussion, agreement, and organization of the scientific components of the congress.

The sources of experience considered were the technical-organizational activities developed within the Scientific Committee, including periodic meetings, collegial discussions, analysis and review of normative documents, definition of operational flows, and deliberations related to the scientific conduct of the event. Also, part of this process were the debates held in institutional spaces linked to the Cofen-CORENs system, always related to improving the scientific organization of the congress.

The main guiding aspects of the commission's work involved: the construction and improvement of the internal regulations; collective discussion and elaboration of proposals for defining the central theme of the congress, including the formulation of three thematic alternatives submitted to the plenary of the Federal Nursing Council for consideration; the definition of the thematic axes; the elaboration and preliminary versions of the call for submissions of scientific papers competing for awards and book launches; the structuring of criteria and flows for peer review of scientific papers; the organization of the scientific program; and proposals for evaluation criteria, records of technical procedures, and guiding documents used in defining the scientific flow of the event. This process allowed for a reflective systematization of the experience, valuing not only the actions developed but also the lessons learned and challenges inherent in the scientific organization of a large-scale congress in the field of nursing.

The experience involved nursing professionals working in healthcare at different levels of care, in the management of the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS), in higher education, in scientific research, and in the administrative structure of the Cofen/Corens system. The diversity of professional backgrounds fostered a pluralistic approach and contributed to the normative proposal reflecting the heterogeneous reality of Brazilian nursing.

Since this is a report of institutional experience, without direct involvement of human beings or collection of primary data, the study did not require submission to the Research Ethics Committee, and express written authorization was obtained from the institutional presidency through a signed letter of agreement. The ethical principles of transparency, institutional responsibility, respect for collective authorship, reliability of information, and scientific integrity were observed.

Experience Report

The Scientific Committee of the 28th Brazilian Congress of Nursing Councils was established by decree of the Federal Nursing Council and is currently fully engaged in the planning, organization, and structuring of the scientific activities of the event, scheduled to take place in December 2026. The committee is composed of professionals with recognized experience in the areas of teaching, research, care, and management in Nursing, encompassing regional representation, diversity of expertise, and balance between

different fields of practice. This composition favors a pluralistic, interdisciplinary, and qualified approach in the decision-making process⁶.

The experience of the Scientific Committee of the 28th CBCENF allows us to understand that the scientific organization of large-scale congresses goes beyond a strictly administrative dimension, configuring itself as a governance strategy capable of inducing quality, coherence, and legitimacy to the scientific process. In this context, the elaboration of norms, flows, criteria, and evaluation instruments is not reduced to a bureaucratic activity but constitutes an organizational technology that directly influences the consistency of submissions, the transparency of decisions, and the credibility of the event.

The national and diverse composition of the Scientific Committee was a relevant aspect of the experience, as it broadened the representation of Brazilian nursing in the planning of the congress. The presence of different professional and regional backgrounds favored the construction of more comprehensive thematic references that adhered to the diversity of the field, in line with the historical trajectory of CBCENF as a space for visibility and circulation of the scientific production of the category.

Currently, activities are focused on building and consolidating the regulatory instruments that will govern the scientific functioning of the congress. The structuring of the work began with the critical analysis and improvement of the event's internal regulations, a guiding document that establishes competencies, operational flows, evaluation criteria, and responsibilities of the committee members. This instrument is fundamental for organizing subsequent stages, ensuring standardization and consistency in decisions.

As a result of the consolidation of the internal regulations, the Scientific Committee moved on to one of the central stages of the scientific planning of the congress: the definition of the central theme of the 28th CBCENF. This process occurred in a collegial manner and involved discussion, problematization, and conceptual refinement among the members of the committee, culminating in the collective construction of three thematic proposals that were submitted to the plenary of the Federal Nursing Council for consideration. The elaboration of these proposals represented a strategic moment in the experience, as it demanded alignment between scientific relevance, political density, thematic timeliness, and the capacity to mobilize the academic and professional production of Nursing.

From this process, the central theme "Nursing as a pillar of universal health coverage" was approved by the plenary of the Federal Nursing Council. The approval of this theme conferred institutional legitimacy on the technical work carried out by the Scientific Committee and established the conceptual and political direction of the event. More than just naming the congress, the thematic definition began to guide, in an articulated way, the organization of the submission notice, the delimitation of thematic axes, the construction of evaluation criteria, and the structuring of the scientific program. By positioning Nursing as a pillar of universal health coverage, the congress emphasizes the



strategic role of the profession in expanding access, improving the quality of care, ensuring the sustainability of health systems, and responding to the contemporary challenges of the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS) and the international health agenda.

In line with this direction, the Scientific Committee defined three complementary thematic axes, intended to organize the scientific scope of the event and to guide the submission and evaluation of papers. Axis 1 - Nursing Care, Access and Quality of Health Care encompasses studies and experiences related to nursing care at different levels of care, with an emphasis on expanding access, quality of care, patient safety, comprehensiveness of care, clinical practices, advanced practices, organization of care, care models, evidence-based practices, and the effectiveness of care in health networks. Axis 2 - Education, Work Management, Technology and Professional Development in Nursing includes productions focused on education, qualification, continuing education, work management, innovation, entrepreneurship, digital transformation, technology, and the development of professional skills. Axis 3 - Ethics, politics, regulation, autonomy and sustainability in Nursing brings together studies on ethics and bioethics, politics, regulation of professional practice, nursing autonomy, professional recognition and the strategic role of the category in the sustainability of health systems.

The definition of the central theme and thematic axes thus constituted a structuring product of the Scientific Committee's work, translating contemporary nursing priorities into organizing language and ensuring coherence between the congress's scientific identity, judging criteria, and program composition. This process contributed to organizing the event in a comprehensive, up-to-date manner, aligned with the multiple constitutive dimensions of nursing work, training, professional regulation, and the production of scientific knowledge.

Continuing the process, a public call for proposals for scientific papers with awards is under development, including detailed guidelines regarding submission standards for scientific articles, evaluation criteria, and a timeline. It also includes regulations regarding the submission of abstracts for oral presentations and e-posters. This process is being conducted with the aim of ensuring transparency, accessibility, and standardization, expanding participation opportunities for professionals, researchers, and students from different regions of the country⁷.

In parallel, the Scientific Committee is structuring the model for evaluating the papers, based on peer review, with a careful definition of the evaluation parameters. Among the criteria under construction, the following stand out: scientific relevance, originality, methodological consistency, clarity in the presentation of results, and applicability to nursing practice. The operationalization of the evaluation process is planned to occur through digital systems, aiming to ensure greater traceability, transparency, and agility. In this context, the committee has been discussing operational flows, deadlines, quality control

mechanisms for evaluations, and strategies for mitigating biases in the judgment process.

Considering the size of the congress, which in its last editions had an average of six thousand submissions, it is necessary to establish a scientific support committee composed of experts with expertise in the various thematic areas, who will evaluate the papers submitted in this edition. The committee's activities are being developed through periodic meetings, allowing for continuous alignment among members, discussion of strategic aspects, and collegial decision-making. This governance model has favored the shared construction of normative instruments and the strengthening of group cohesion.

In addition to structuring the submission and evaluation process, the SC is also involved in organizing the event's scientific program, including defining the thematic sessions and courses offered, the logic for distributing approved works in the coordinated communication and e-poster modalities, book launch sessions, sessions for presenting works for awards, and managing the specialized area meetings that will take place within the event. These definitions are being built in an integrated way, aiming to ensure coherence between the thematic axes and the congress activities. Another relevant aspect refers to the continuous systematization of the activities carried out through the preparation of technical records and partial reports, which allow the monitoring of actions and the identification of necessary adjustments throughout the process, a practice that contributes to organizational transparency and the improvement of the strategies adopted.

Furthermore, it is worth highlighting that the ongoing experience has enabled the identification of challenges related to the standardization of processes, the coordination between different institutional actors, and the construction of instruments that reconcile scientific rigor with accessibility. On the other hand, a set of potential strengths is evident, such as the strengthening of collaborative work, the national and international integration of nursing, and the consolidation of organizational practices aligned with good scientific practices⁸.

In this sense, the SC's performance, still in the development phase, is configured as a dynamic and strategic process, with significant potential to positively impact the quality of scientific production to be presented at the 28th CBCENF. The SC's performance at the 28th CBCENF projects relevant and structuring impacts on the qualification of the event, on the consolidation of a robust scientific environment, and on the expansion of the visibility of scientific production in nursing in Brazil.

Regarding participation, a significant increase in the number of submitted works is expected, driven by the clarity of the regulatory instruments, the wide dissemination of the call for papers, and the credibility of the established scientific process. This growth is expected to reflect the strengthening of the engagement of the Nursing scientific community, involving professionals, teachers, researchers,



and students. Simultaneously, an expansion of the thematic diversity of the productions is projected, encompassing strategic areas such as assistance, management, health education, technological innovation, patient safety, ethics and bioethics, and public policies, in line with the contemporary demands of the Brazilian health system.

It is also expected that there will be greater national reach of submissions, with expanded representation from all regions of the country, including contexts that have historically been less visible in scientific production. This movement reinforces the democratic, inclusive, and decentralized nature of the congress, contributing to the appreciation of the different realities of nursing practice in Brazil.

In terms of scientific quality, the standardization of evaluation criteria, associated with the adoption of the peer review model and the definition of clear and objective parameters, tends to promote greater equity in the selection process, reducing biases and strengthening institutional transparency. In this sense, it is expected that the methodological rigor of the submitted productions will be strengthened, with direct impacts on the consistency, relevance, and applicability of the approved papers.

Additionally, the structuring of a scientific support committee of evaluators, distributed according to the thematic axes of the event, should contribute to greater alignment between the content of the papers and the expertise of the reviewers, improving the evaluation process and promoting more consistent feedback to the authors.

Regarding the organization of the scientific program, it is expected that the alignment between the approved papers and the defined thematic axes will favor the integration between different areas of knowledge, stimulating interdisciplinary approaches and deepening discussions. The strategic distribution of papers into thematic sessions, oral presentations, and e-posters should enhance the exchange of experiences, scientific debate, and collective construction of knowledge.

The launch of books within the CBCENF is a relevant strategy for valuing and disseminating knowledge produced in the field, expanding the reach of technical and scientific productions beyond presentations in thematic sessions. This space promotes the visibility of original works, collections, and institutional publications that reflect advances in nursing care, management, education, and research, strengthening the consolidation of the profession as a scientific field. Furthermore, book launches foster exchange between authors and readers, stimulate qualified academic production, and contribute to the building of collaborative networks. By integrating this initiative into the CBCENF's scientific program, it reinforces the event's commitment to the democratization of knowledge, the valorization of authorship, and the encouragement of intellectual production aligned with the needs of the Brazilian health system. Another expected outcome concerns the identification and recognition of outstanding productions through structured selection processes for awards, encouraging scientific quality and acknowledging innovative

initiatives with the potential to impact professional practice and the organization of health services. Furthermore, it is projected that the systematization of processes and the creation of technical records throughout the event's organization will contribute to the construction of a replicable organizational model, serving as a reference for future editions of the congress and other scientific events in the health field. It is expected that the SC's actions will contribute to strengthening the culture of knowledge production and dissemination in Nursing, stimulating evidence-based practice, the integration of teaching, research, care, and management, and the robustness of Nursing as a strategic scientific field for the development of the Brazilian health system.

Discussion

The experience gained from developing the SC for the 28th CBCENF (Brazilian Congress of Scientific and Technological Innovation) highlights the importance of a solid organizational structure for conducting large-scale scientific events, even in their preparatory phase. Adopting a structured internal regulation is a central element in organizing activities, contributing to the clear definition of roles, workflows, and criteria. This process tends to directly impact the quality of decisions and the consistency of the event.

The definition of the central theme and thematic axes also proved to be a relevant analytical component of the experience, demonstrating that the Scientific Committee's role goes beyond the operational dimension and assumes the character of scientific curation of the congress. In this sense, the choice of the theme "Nursing as a pillar of universal health coverage" not only expresses alignment with contemporary debates on global health and the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS), but also positions Nursing as a strategic category in the production of care, the organization of services, the qualification of the workforce, and the sustainability of health systems. The three defined axes reflect this breadth by integrally encompassing the care, training, technological, political, ethical, and regulatory dimensions of the profession, allowing for greater coherence between thematic identity, evaluation criteria, and the scientific program of the event. This organization expands the congress's capacity to induce priority debates, provide greater intelligibility to submissions, and strengthen the representativeness of Brazilian nursing scientific production. The peer review model already adopted presents itself as an essential strategy to ensure the credibility of the scientific process, being widely recognized as an international standard of quality^{8,9}.

The regional diversity and areas of expertise of the commission members constitute a relevant differential, with the potential to broaden the thematic scope and strengthen the national representativeness of scientific production in Nursing. The use of digital technologies⁹ in the management of submissions and evaluations points towards greater efficiency and transparency, aligning with contemporary trends in scientific organization.



In this sense, even though the event has not yet taken place, the ongoing structuring already shows significant potential for impact on the quality of scientific production and the strengthening of Nursing as a field of knowledge. Experience, therefore, teaches that scientific governance, when structured in a collegial and formalized manner, can contribute not only to the quality of a specific edition but also to the consolidation of a replicable organizational model in the field of Nursing.

Final Considerations

The experience of the SC at the 28th CBCENF consistently demonstrates the strategic role of this body in consolidating scientific events as legitimate spaces for the production, validation, and dissemination of knowledge in Nursing. Its structured approach, based on planning, standardization, and collaborative work, proved fundamental in ensuring the technical and scientific quality of the productions and the credibility of the evaluation process.

It is noteworthy that the institutionalization of the commission, through formal normative instruments, coupled with the creation of robust internal regulations, significantly contributes to the organization of workflows, the definition of responsibilities, and the standardization of evaluation criteria. These elements are crucial to ensuring transparency, fairness, and scientific rigor throughout all stages of the process¹⁰.

The adoption of practices aligned with contemporary guidelines for scientific production, such as peer review and the use of digital platforms for submission management, reinforces the commitment to excellence and the modernization of organizational processes. These strategies enhance the event and broaden its reach, inclusion, and national participation. Another relevant aspect concerns the formative and professional impact of

the experience, both for the members of the Scientific Committee and for the congress participants. Collective construction, interdisciplinary dialogue, and the appreciation of regional diversity contribute to strengthening a critical, reflective scientific culture committed to evidence-based practice. Furthermore, the scientific organization process of the event promotes the visibility of national nursing production, stimulating the dissemination of knowledge applicable to clinical practice, management, and the formulation of public health policies. In this sense, CBCENF reaffirms its role as a strategic space for the scientific and political development of the profession.

As a practical implication, the potential for replicability of the adopted organizational model stands out, which can support the structuring of other scientific events and institutional initiatives focused on research and innovation in health. From this perspective, the experience reinforces the relevance of scientific governance as a structuring component of the organization of academic events by articulating standardization, definition of flows, evaluation criteria, and monitoring mechanisms capable of sustaining greater coherence, transparency, and legitimacy in the scientific process. Furthermore, continuous investment in the qualification of evaluation processes, the training of evaluators, and the use of technologies that increase efficiency and transparency is recommended.

It is concluded that the performance of the 28th CBCENF's Scientific Committee, still under development, presents itself as a strategic element to guarantee rigor, transparency, and scientific excellence to the event. The organizational structure adopted, based on principles of scientific governance, has the potential to contribute significantly to the qualification of scientific production, to the improvement of future editions of the congress, and to the strengthening of Nursing as a field of knowledge.

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