

Overcoming Geographic Barriers to Implementation of Evidence-Based Practice
Gayle Z. Balmaceda, RN, MSN, ANP, GNP, gbalmace@mdanderson.org
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Problem:

Implementation of Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) within a comprehensive cancer center requires education and participation of nurses representing all clinical areas. The 25 nurses in the Radiation Oncology Clinic are geographically separated on two campuses and divided by sub-specialties. Providing education and supporting development of a unit-based evidence-based practice project for clinic nurses presented a unique challenge.

Evidence:

The clinic's nurse manager and master's prepared mentor attended an evidence-based resource unit nurse (EBRUN) course offered at the center. Information was gathered from course content, published articles, the Oncology Nursing Society and cancer center websites, and other evidence-based medicine websites.

Strategy:

The EBRUN and mentor provided a series of in-services on EBP, including how to search and critique research literature. A web log (blog) was created on Blogger.com to facilitate communication of nurses working in various locations. A modified journal club was initiated for development of article review and evidence-based critical thinking skills.

Practice Change:

The journal club was placed on the agenda of the clinic's monthly Professional Practice Committee Meeting. Team members were assisted to register on the blog.

Evaluation:

An online survey was conducted to obtain feedback, learning needs, and suggestions for improvement for the unit's EBP program.

Results:

Eighty percent of the clinic nurses have attended the education classes and journal club. Approximately 50% of the team has registered on the blog. Nurses have expressed genuine enthusiasm for participation in the evidence-based practice program. The journal club was well received and is now planned as a separate monthly activity per the nurses' request. Nurses have requested a statistics course (for beginners) to assist them with research article critiques. Additional education classes, including statistics, have been scheduled for future monthly meetings.

Recommendations:

Internet tools, such as blogs, can be utilized to facilitate documentation, online surveys, and communication to overcome barriers created by diverse geographic locations.

Bibliography:

1. Oncology Nursing Society. *Evidence Based Practice Resource Area*.
<http://onsopcontent.ons.org/toolkits/evidence/> Site accessed: February 24, 2006
2. University of Alberta. *Evidence Based Medicine Tool Kit*
<http://www.med.ualberta.ca/ebm/ebm.htm> Site accessed: February 24, 2006

3. Nursing at MD Anderson. *Evidence-Based Practice*.
<http://inside.mdanderson.org/departments/nursing/display.cfm?id=7394E6EF-3618-4162-9820872DCEB3B816&method=displayFull> Site accessed: February 24, 2006
4. Centre for Evidence Based Medicine. *EMB Toolbox*.
<http://www.cebm.net/toolbox.asp> Site accessed: February 24, 2006
5. Medscape. *Implementing Evidence-Based Nursing Practice*.
<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/514532> Site accessed: February 24, 2006
6. Medscape. *The Potential Use of Blogs in Nursing*.
<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/498947> Site accessed: February 24, 2006