

Unraveling the Mystery Behind Evidence-Based Practice for Staff Nurses
M. Jane Fayland, MSN, APRN, CCRN, CNS, baygirle59@aol.com
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, Doctoral Student at LSUHSC,
New Orleans

Problem: Staff nurses' implementation of evidence-based practice (EBP) improves clinical decision making processes. However, this process has been complicated by the lack of concept clarification of EBP, quality improvement, research utilization, research based nursing, best practices, and EBP nursing.

Evidence: An electronic search of journals read by staff nurses in CINAHL produced 350 articles published between 2000 and 2006.

Strategy: Analysis was limited to three generic U.S. nursing journals with large distributions and easy access to staff nurses. Bibliometric strategies included statistical analysis of publication counts, co-term index analysis, and co-citation analysis.

Practice Change: Practice improvement is dependent upon an appropriate staff nurse understanding of EBP.

Evaluation: Data was mapped by journal, author, indexed terms, number of articles/year, percentage of total articles per journal, and type of article (opinion, clinical study, research, conceptual).

Results: A total of 178/2568 (6.93%) of publications for Journal #1, 83/2917 (2.85%) #2, and 79/3888 (2.03%) #3 were analyzed. Articles were indexed as follows: quality improvement (59), research utilization (4), research based nursing (16), best practices (10), EBP nursing (207), and EBP (45). A trend was identified in increased productivity over time in the type of content reviewed in all journals; however, the lowest total volume journal published the largest percentage of EBP-related content. Trends were also identified in co-citation and co-term index analyses.

Recommendations: These bibliographic findings offer useful information for staff nurses to unravel the mystery of searching for EBP information by providing (1) search strategies that increase the yield of EBP articles in specific journals; and (2) strategies to improve staff nurse participation in implementing EBP. The knowledge gap between EBP and clinical practice can also be bridged through sharing these findings in journal clubs, lectures, small group discussion, and grand rounds.

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