

**Promoting Evidence-Based Practice in the Ambulatory Care Setting**  
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**Problem:**

Patient education is a vital component of nursing practice, and a primary role of nurses in the outpatient setting. Patients depend on nurses for evidence-based information. The melanoma outpatient unit in a large, comprehensive cancer center is composed of three different yet integrated areas – medicine, surgery, and dermatology. Nurses have a challenging task to properly utilize current nursing research across settings to improve nursing knowledge and evidence-based practices.

**Evidence:**

A literature search is being conducted to develop a survey to assess nurses' knowledge of different dermatological diagnoses and to identify nurses' learning needs, preferences and topics of interest. Identified topics to improve patient education include: 1) increasing nurses' knowledge of different dermatological diagnoses, 2) evaluating the effectiveness of nurses' bio-chemotherapy teaching, and 3) evaluating current post biopsy care.

**Strategy:**

As part of an institute evidence-based nursing program, nurses representing the clinic are serving as evidence-based resource unit nurses (EBRUNs). To achieve success, EBRUNs attend classes and meetings with a master's prepared mentor. Dedicated evidence-based practice resources are available on the organizations' website.

**Practice Change:**

A goal of EBRUNs is to share information and increase nurses' participation in the evidence-based practice at the unit level.

**Evaluation:**

Direct, informal observation of nurses who educate patients undergoing bio-chemotherapy was performed to evaluate uniformity of teaching methods. Ten nurses will receive an anonymous survey, sent via email per the nurses' stated preference.

**Results:**

Using the survey results, an agenda will be developed to initiate a journal club, teach nurses necessary, basic skills for critiquing articles, and develop an evidence-based practice-knowledge-base specific to the unit's interests. An initial observation of bio-chemotherapy teaching supported that nurses are employing the same methodology. A post-teaching survey is currently being developed.

**Recommendations:**

EBRUNs are an effective resource to assist adaptation of evidence in practice at the unit level.

**Bibliography:** LoBiondo-Wood, G. & Haber, J. (2006). *Nursing Research: Methods and Critical Appraisal for Evidence-Based Practice*, 2006 6th Ed. Philadelphia: Elsevier-Mosby