

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go! The Evidence-Based Practice Readiness Survey
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Problem/Evidence: During the *Fourth Annual Summer Institute on Evidence-Based Practice* (2005, San Antonio, TX) a question was asked: What strategies or tools are available to measure a facility's readiness to implement evidence-based practice? Conversations with presenters, colleagues, and attendees during the Institute indicated a gap; thus the challenge to develop a tool to measure a community base hospital's readiness to evidence-based practice (EBP) began.

Strategy: As a result of a collaborative endeavor between a School of Nursing and a community hospital the "Evidence-Based Practice Readiness Survey" was developed. An environmental readiness framework guided tool development. The survey obtained various data: workplace culture, communication, leadership support to EBP, nurses' knowledge, skills and attitudes toward EBP, availability of resources, and interdisciplinary relationships. The survey was distributed to the nursing staff of a 280 bed community base hospital; 121 were completed.

Practice Change: The survey provided a method to determine the hospital's readiness to EBP and guided the initial roll-out phase. The findings continue to guide implementation and planning strategies (survey was conducted in December 2005).

Evaluation/Results: The survey provided valuable information for the EBP roll-out phase in addition to short and long-term planning. A follow-up study will be conducted.

Recommendations: 1) Conduct a comprehensive base-line assessment to identify an institution's strengths and hurdles, prior to initiating evidence-based practice, 2) Establish a working relationship with various partners, such as staff nurses, advance practice nurses, educators, administration, librarians, universities and colleges.

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