

Evidence Based Practice Lessons: Meeting Education Needs of Staff Nurses
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Problem:

The average staff RN in the region is prepared at the associate degree level. To facilitate the adoption of evidence based practice in the local healthcare settings, our Nursing Research Alliance identified the need to develop an educational program to support the bedside nurse to move evidence into practice.

Evidence:

Nursing literature amply demonstrates the need for support as nurses engage in evidence based practice. Barriers to EBP commonly cited include lack of time, little knowledge on information retrieval, difficulty understanding research articles, lack of literature search skills, lack of support to implement research findings, and lack of colleague support (Pravikoff, Tanner & Pierce, 2005 & Fineout - Overholt, 2005).

Strategy:

The Nursing Research Alliance of the Capital District region, through a collaboration of educators and practitioners, developed a series of EBP lessons to assist staff RNs to move evidence into practice. Lessons are brief (1-2 pages) and ask the RN to work with a mentor to implement a practice change.

Practice Change:

The lessons are posted on the Nursing Research Alliance website accessible by any member organization. The online education program consists of twelve lessons (modules) which include didactic content on EBP, with links to web based resources. Learning activities are designed to engage the learner to implement EBP with a mentor.

Evaluation:

Drafts of the EBP lessons were reviewed by staff nurses at two member hospitals and modified. The next step will be to evaluate the utility of the lessons using focus groups facilitated by onsite clinical research mentors and staff to identify facilitators and barriers of implementation and examine content of the program. The program was profiled at a regional chapter of nurse executives and a district chapter of a NYSNA meeting. The initial response from program participants was overwhelmingly positive.

Results:

Results of focus group feedback will be available at the conference.

Recommendations:

Developed based on analysis of results of the focus group and individual evaluations of the lessons to identify additional modifications.

References

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