

Acute Care Setting: Facilitators to Promote Evidence Based Practice
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Problem: A facility classified as a 300 bed, teaching, county hospital is making a conscious effort to promote Evidence Based Practice (EBP) as part of its magnet journey. The preeminent way to facilitate the implementation of EBP is being investigated.

Evidence: CINAHL, Cochrane, and Medline were searched using the terms facilitating evidence based practice, facilitators evidence based practice. The Cochrane database returned two systematic reviews. The reviews located concluded that insufficient research exists to support specific interventions. Next the opinion of clinical experts was examined. Ellen Fineout-Overholt, Rona Levin, and Bernadette Melnyk put forth the importance of laying a strong foundation upon which to build an evidence based practice environment.

Strategy: To create a nurturing environment that promotes evidence based practice by developing and utilizing champions as the initial step in the process.

Practice Change: The hospital's nurse educators completed an assessment of environmental readiness and institutional support for EBP and attended continuing education on EBP. The nurse educators were identified as champions of EBP. The next step will be to evaluate the staff nurses knowledge of EBP, after that the nurse educators will develop and deliver an educational program that addresses the identified needs.

Evaluation: After the educational session nurse educators verbalized a greater understanding of EBP and their role in promoting the use of the best evidence. The educators have begun to apply EBP to their own practice.

Results: The assessment of readiness completed by the nurse educators identified gaps in organizational readiness to promote EBP.

Recommendations: Research needs to be done to identify the best interventions to facilitate evidence based practice. Following expert opinion, focus should be on developing a strong foundation upon which evidence based practice can grow.

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