6-17-2016

Improving the Use of Evidence-Based Practice and Research Utilization through the Identification of Barriers to Implementation in a Critical Access Hospital

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Citation

Stavor, Dawn, "Improving the Use of Evidence-Based Practice and Research Utilization through the Identification of Barriers to Implementation in a Critical Access Hospital" (2016). *All Publications*. 2682.

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Improving the Use of Evidence-based Practice and Research Utilization through the Identification of Barriers to Implementation in a Critical Access Hospital

Dawn C. Stavor DNP, RN, NE-BC

**Introduction**

The Institute of Medicine set a goal that by the year 2020, 90% of all clinical decisions will be supported by accurate, timely, and up-to-date clinical information that reflects the best available evidence. The American Nurses Credentialing Center Model for Magnet® consists of five evidence-derived components—transformational leadership, structural empowerment, exemplary professional practice, new knowledge, innovations and improvements and empirical outcomes. The knowledge, innovations, and improvements component focuses on research and evidence-based practice that supports the advancement of practice in the clinical setting.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this study was to explore the relationships between perceived barriers to research use and the implementation of EBP among rural hospital nurses. The specific aims include:

1. The identification of barriers to implementation of EBP, and
2. The development of an implementation plan for future roll-outs of EBP initiatives to increase utilization and compliance.

**Methodology**

Following Institutional Review Board approval, a descriptive, quality improvement study was done using a convenience sample of 80 RNs employed at the facility. An introductory letter with an informed consent statement was sent to recruit participants. Information regarding the study was shared at beginning of shift huddles. Envelopes with all study tools were placed on each nursing unit where they could be accessed and completed. Fifty-one (63.8%) subjects participated. When completed, the documents were placed in a sealed envelop and dropped in a locked box to maintain anonymity.

**Discussion**

Based on the results of the two surveys, four issues emerged:

- Lack of knowledge (forming a research question, completing a literature search, and critiquing information)
- Limited resources (rural facility, no on-site librarian, part-time nurse scientist)
- Multidisciplinary collaboration
- Ability and willingness to change.

**Implications for Practice**

Educate and increase utilization of the following:

- Clinical Excellence Through Evidence-based Practice Model
- Roll Out form and process
- Classes on the following:
  - Formulating a Research Question
  - How to do a literature search
  - Critiquing a research article
- Multidisciplinary collaboration to implement change

**References**


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Hutchison AM, & Johnston L. Beyond the BARRIERS Scale. J Nurs Adm. 2006; 36 94 0: 189-199.
