When “More Research is Needed” – Advancing EBP Projects to Research Studies

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Introduction

EBP projects are required in nurse residency programs and graduate level capstone projects. Evidence discovered through these projects may provide direction for clinical practice. Many times projects are received as an academic exercise with the resounding conclusion “more research is needed.”

Methods

Three Nurse Resident EBP projects were selected based on potential impact to nurse sensitive indicators and organizational goals.

- Use of Mechanical Lift Devices
- Patient and Nurse Perception of Pain Management
- Elements of Successful Bedside Shift Report

Discussion

Project designs included quantitative (pain management), qualitative (mechanical lifts), and quality improvement (bedside shift report) that all received IRB approval.

Additional opportunities included:

- Collaboration with The College of Medicine and funding of a medical student to assist in data collection
- Involvement of clinical nurses in all phases of the project from problem identification to dissemination

Barriers included inability of clinical nurses to devote consistent and focused time to projects; and knowledge deficits related to the research process and utilization.

Conclusions

Establishing a council structure vested in the process and outcomes is imperative:

- Aligning NR and EBP Council goals to strategic initiatives.
- Supporting EBP projects congruent with desired nursing outcomes.
- Mentoring of nurses by doctoral prepared nurse scientists.
- Ensuring leadership support for clinical nurses’ involvement in the process.

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