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. Topics selected to advance to research studies included:
• Use of Mechanical Lift Devices
• Patient and Nurse Perception of Pain Management
• Elements of Successful Bedside Shift Report

Process

Problem Identification
Study Group Formation
Research Question Identification
Literature Review
Design Selection
PI Identified
IRB Application
Data Collection
Data Analysis
Findings Interpretation
Dissemination of Findings

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.

Recommended Structure and Resources
Shared Governance
CITI Training for Staff Members
Library Liaison
IRB Access and Assistance
Director Sponsor
PhD Prepared Nurse Scientists

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Pain management research team members review protocol implementation

Demonstration on use of mechanical lifts

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