Transforming Evidence into Nursing Practice: A Strategy to Reality Process
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Problem
Evidence-based practice (EBP) involves defining a clinical question, searching the literature, and critically appraising research information. Nurses often find these processes challenging and consider them barriers to integration of research evidence in clinical practice.

Evidence
As an EBP program was implemented in a large, comprehensive cancer center, it was identified that not all nurses in the organization had recent, formal, basic training in nursing research and/or had not yet developed necessary skills to search the literature and critically evaluate research study findings. Development and implementation of strategies to overcome identified barriers was critical to successful transformation of evidence into practice.

Strategy
A 2-day class was created and offered to introduce nurses to basic principles of research and EBP. Information about searching the literature and conducting critical appraisal of research articles was provided. Class participants met in small groups to practice article critique exercises and complete evidence summary tables. Classroom knowledge was supplemented by development and dissemination of self-study modules on the nursing website. Examples of module topics include: Searching in PubMed, Using Limits in PubMed, and Conducting Article Reviews. Additionally, the researcher librarian offered special classes aimed at searching the literature using EBP processes.

Practice Change
The modules were made available for class participants’ use to educate other team members, facilitate continuing educational opportunities, and provide hands-on experiences to further develop literature search strategies and skills. Nursing units have formed journal clubs, where team members meet to critique articles.

Evaluation
Open forum sessions have been routinely scheduled to provide consultation, share experiences, discuss questions and concerns, and feature successes.

Results
Class participants have acknowledged professional growth in ability to more effectively judge the scientific merit of published study results.

Recommendations
Enhancing nurses’ skills with EBP processes was critical for evidence-based nursing to become a practice reality within the organization.
Bibliography