

## **Evidence Based Practice Resources Use by Acute Care Nurses**

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**Problem:** What practice problem did you address and why is change needed?

Evidence based practice (EBP) involves using research findings to provide quality nursing care. However, many nurses lack the skills to access and evaluate EBP resources. This study's purpose is to examine how familiar nurses at a community hospital are with EBP and their comfort in accessing EBP resources.

**Evidence:** What evidence did you use to address the problem and how was it gathered and appraised?

Fifty-one nurses completed a survey developed by Sigma Theta Tau International who gave permission to use the survey. Data analysis included means, percentages, and frequencies.

**Strategy:** What strategy was used to link the innovation to practice?

Study results were used to plan and provide educational activities focused on accessing and evaluating EBP resources.

**Practice Change:** What specific practice change was made (for quality improvement studies or procedure evaluated (for research studies)?

A handout providing an EBP overview and search information on six health care databases was given to 27 (52.5%) respondents. The other 24 (47.1%) agreed to attend a class providing similar information plus class time to search the databases. A second study phase is to identify differences in the two groups' ability to access and evaluate resources. However, this component is ongoing with anticipated completion by May, 2007.

**Evaluation:** What outcomes were measured and how?

The survey provided information on years of experience, educational level, and area worked. Also, it provided information on respondents' familiarity with EBP, need to search for information, and perceived search skill level.

**Results:** What did you find?

Over 30% of the respondents denied familiarity with EBP. Over half (54.9%) needed to search for research/evidence at least weekly while only 13.7% were very comfortable with their searching skills. A number of participants (41.2%) did not know where to look for EBP resources.

**Recommendations:** What recommendations do you have for practice? What lessons did you learn?

There is a need to teach nurses about EBP and how to access EBP resources. Two ways our facility has done this is through handouts and classes. Another recommendation is to use resources in the community. We partnered with the director of library services at a local college and he has helped to identify databases and with teaching search techniques.

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\*Database included in handout and in the class.