Critiquing a Research Article, Tell It in a Poster
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Problem: Nurse competency in research and research utilization skills varies widely.

Evidence: In 2002, the Christiana Care Health System Nursing Research Education Committee (NREC) conducted a study the ‘Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) Related to Research survey.

Strategy: The STAR model, developed by the Academic Center for Evidence-based Practice (ACE) at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, is one of many frameworks that facilitates critical thinking based on current research (ACE, 2003). With permission, this investigator used the ACE STAR model to set a plan for research competencies.

Research skills needed to be developed at the novice, intermediate, and advanced levels. Performing a literature search and critiquing a research article were skills chosen to teach novice nurses. Nurses attended education specifically to learn critiquing skills. The poster contest was an idea to showcase what our nurses had learned and is now part of our annual Nurses’ Week celebration.

Nurses can work in partnerships. First, second, third, and honorable mention prizes are awarded including memberships to the American Nurses’ Association.

Practice Change: The NREC shared the KAP study results with the Nursing Professional Advancement Council; as a result, recommendations to build basic to advanced research skills into nursing job descriptions reflecting the clinical ladder have begun. For instance, role model nurses at the bedside must present peer reviewed literature to their colleagues and role model staff development nurses need to serve on the Research Council.

Evaluation: To date, almost 150 nurses have participated. Of these, three nurses completed apprenticeships in research. Another nurse, initiated a replicate study and the data from this has been used to update this organization’s dress code policy. Unit based journal clubs are also flourishing.

Results: Data concluded that nurses had a positive attitude but were less confident in their knowledge and skills related to research.

Recommendations: The Institute of Medicine (IOM) lists evidence-based practice (EBP) as an essential competency. Health care organizations need to assess nurse competency of knowledge, attitude, and skills for participation in EBP and support their learning needs. Programs like ‘Critiquing A Research Article, Tell It In A Poster’ hallmark nursing excellence and should be visible in Magnet™ organizations.
Lessons Learned: Nurses need designated time away from patient care to learn new skills. Informal education has been formalized into an all-day continuing education workshop. Workshop evaluations consistently have high marks and participant comments demonstrate value.

Bibliography: