Problem:
The Evidence Based Nursing Practice Council (EBNPC), part of the shared governance nursing mode, was challenged with defining an organization wide process for direct care nurses to reformat, author and review clinical practice guidelines (CPG’s).

Evidence:
Unit based practice councils found it arduous to perform literature reviews, level evidence and maintain existing CPG’s despite annual retreats, medical library and EBNPC support. Time constraints, council staff turnover, and increasing volume of information were major barriers. From 2006-2009, approximately 50% of CPG’s had been updated with current best practice.

Strategy:
The EBNPC sought solutions that would improve access and maintain up-to-date evidence based practice. The EBNPC chose a commercially available product as an adjunct to the CPG to decrease the need for nurses to write and embed procedures within the CPG, and reduce the time required to keep CPGs current.

Practice Change:
Unit based councils reviewed their assigned CPG’s to determine whether there was a corresponding procedure to augment or replace the CPG. The existing CPG was kept the same, or edited by removing the redundant procedure, as appropriate.

Evaluation:
Unit based practice councils continue to present their revisions to the EBNPC. Many were successful in updating, editing and/or removing procedures from their CPGs.

Results:
As of March, 2010, 68% of CPGs were updated. This percentage continues to increase monthly.

Recommendations:
Each EBNPC member will serve as liaison to several unit practice council to mentor and assist in updating CPGs.

Lessons Learned:
Time constraints make involving staff nurses in the process of updating CPGs very challenging. Recognizing the difficulty of this process, we searched for and found a product that will provide updated, evidence based procedures. This will help focus nursing efforts on providing current evidence based care at the bedside instead of constantly researching and reformatting CPGs.