

Foreword

By Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk

Findings from a strong body of studies have shown that quality, safety, and patient outcomes can be substantially improved when healthcare is based on sound evidence from research. Yet, the translation of research into real-world clinical practice settings has been exceedingly slow, taking from multiple years to decades. Although many policymakers are starting to understand that they must base their decisions on the best evidence, the process of evidence-informed policymaking is also often painstakingly slow. Nurses, who are the largest healthcare workforce in the country, and other health professionals must understand the process of policymaking and how to best influence it with sound evidence from research.

This book by Drs. Loversidge and Zurmehly, two exceptional nurses and teachers who are seasoned in regulation, is a much needed and outstanding addition to the literature that fills a gap within health policy books because of the approach it takes with evidence as the essential foundation for policy. Masterfully organized, it starts with the origins of evidence-based practice so that readers can understand the basis and critical importance of evidence-informed policymaking. The content not only provides readers with the necessary knowledge of government structures, functions, and processes for the creation, passage, and dissemination of new bills but equips readers with the nuts and bolts of the seven-step evidence-based practice process applied to health policy, a pioneering first for the field.

This book should be a must-read in academic health professional programs and a staple in the library of every health professional. It is an exquisite masterpiece and a practical guide for how best to use evidence to influence health policy to ultimately improve the state of healthcare and population health outcomes across the nation.

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