Enhancing Clinical Outcomes by Scaling Up Evidence-Based Practices: A Global Collaboration

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RNAO Best Practice Guidelines Program
The Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario (RNAO) launched the Best Practice Guidelines Program in 1999 with funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHTC). The 54 best practice guidelines (BPG) developed to date have made a substantial contribution towards building excellence in Ontario’s health system and internationally. The BPG Program has helped to advance government priorities, as well as patient, provider, organizational, and health system outcomes. It is recognized around the world as a knowledge movement composed of rigorous guideline development and transformational approaches that are contributing to implementation science, and robust evaluation methodology. Best Practice Spotlight Organizations® (BPSOs®) are health-care and academic organizations that implement and evaluate BPGs. There are currently 850 health service and academic organizations across Canada and around the world. To learn more about RNAO’s guidelines, visit RNAO.ca/bpg

Scaling Up Evidence-Based Practices: Implementation Science

RNAO’s process of integrating BPGs into practice is informed by the Knowledge-to-Action Framework, which takes a systems perspective and recognizes that implementation is a social process. Adapting research evidence is necessary in order to take local context and culture into account.

The BPSO designation program provides specific coaching, mentoring, knowledge exchange/transfer activities, capacity building opportunities, and support to leaders and team members in BPSO across all sectors and across the globe as they implement, evaluate, sustain and spread the use of best practice guidelines both at unit/program level and across the entire organization/region/country. Supports include:

- Annual BPSO® Knowledge Exchange Symposium
- Regular BPSO knowledge exchange teleconferences and webinars
- Support of a RNAO Coach and a BPSO mentor organization
- Regular reporting and report review meetings between RNAO staff and the BPSO’s leadership team
- Best Practice Guideline Order Sets that provide clear, concise, actionable, technology enabled, evidence-based interventions
- Consistent approach to data collection through indicators, instruments and instruction and guidance for collecting these data through NQuIRE®

This evidence-based implementation methodology has triggered the development of evidence-informed cultures, improved client care and enriched the professional practice of nurses and other health-care providers.

Types of BPSOs

- BPSO Direct: Organization develops a contract directly with RNAO to work for a 3-year period to become a BPSO Designate, and as a Designate continues the relationship with RNAO
- BPSO National Host: Organization (BPSO Host) develops a contract with RNAO to oversee the BPSO Designation in their national jurisdiction
- BPSO Regional Host: Organization (BPSO Host) develops a contract with RNAO to oversee the BPSO Designation in their regional jurisdiction

Outcomes and Impact

Through the BPSO designation program, BPSOs around the world have made strides in positively influencing client, provider, organization, system and financial outcomes. Some examples include:

- ↓ falls and fall injuries
- ↓ prevalence of pressure injuries
- ↓ use of restraints
- ↑ engagement of staff in evidence-based practices
- ↑ interprofessional practice and team collaboration
- ↓ sustained use of evidence-based practice changes through:
  - staff education and orientation
  - establishment of evidence-based policies
  - integration within electronic documentation systems
  - quality improvement programs

The impact of the BPSO program has touched thousands of nurses, other health-care professionals, and clients and has positively impacted nursing practice and client outcomes, demonstrating a highly effective approach to increasing quality through evidence-based clinical practice.

(BPSO Impact Survey – 2017)

Evaluation and Monitoring

RNAO supports BPSO to evaluate the impact of BPG implementation on nursing practice, health and organizational, as well as health system outcomes to demonstrate value. BPG-based indicators are developed and included within each RNAO BPG. Indicators that are developed undergo panel review, internal and external validation.

Nursing Quality Indicators for Reporting and Evaluation (NQuIRE)® is an international data system for nursing-sensitive indicators that RNAO has developed to measure the impact of BPGs.

RNAO has integrated social movement thinking into its Program. At the core is a deep respect, understanding, and accounting for top-down, bottom-up, and overall – multiple enriching powers and dynamics – that serve to mobilize knowledge to advance evidence-based practice in nursing.

Models of BPSO

- Service BPSO: Focus on evidence based practice to impact client outcomes
  - Acute care, home care, public health, primary care
  - Tailored BPSOs for long-term care settings
- Academic BPSO: Focus on evidence based nursing education, to impact student learning, and client outcomes

RNAO’s BPG Program has purposefully fostered shared ownership and a nurturing of collective identity among participants and stakeholders at all levels. Our work with BPSOs emphasizes a transparent, engaging, and motivational approach that encourages identification with, and active participation in, all pillars of the Program.

Scaling Up Evidence-Based Practices: Social Movement Thinking

Collective Identity

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