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Catalyzing Frontline Nurse Research With Intentional Connections

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Purpose:

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has set a goal that by 2020, 90% of all healthcare decisions in the United States (US) will be evidence-based. While it is true that nursing research and nurses engaged in EBP has had a slow start in hospital settings to date, it does not necessarily follow that nurses are not interested in engaging in a culture of inquiry. Research has shown that nurses who are engaged in clinical inquiry and EBP initiatives are more satisfied with their careers, perform at a higher level, and their patients have better clinical outcomes.

The purpose of this innovative, multi-strategy approach is to support frontline nurses with completing Principal Investigator (PI)-initiated studies from idea to dissemination.

Methods:

The nurse PI-Initiated support system was launched in March, 2017. There are four steps in the program. Step 1 is consultation. Step 2 is proposal development. Step 3 is implementation. Step 4 is dissemination. Each step is supported by innovative strategies such as: (a) research socials, (b) research speed dating with a Nurse Scientist, (c) IRB submission and CITI completion group parties, and (d) informal research lab times. On completion of each nursing research study there is external and internal dissemination pathways that each nursing PI can choose based on the scope of the project. Process and outcome metrics for each step in the process were tracked. Staff nurse experience was also evaluated throughout the process.

Results:

In 8 months, an average of 25 frontline nurse consults per month were completed. The number of nurse-led nursing research studies increased from 10 to 53 with 15 specialties represented. Fifty percent of active nurse-led research studies are inter-professional. To date, there are 46 dissemination items. Nurses reported 100% satisfaction with the program to date.

Conclusion:

As the largest group of healthcare providers to care for and spend time with patients, nurses are well-positioned to foster a spirit of inquiry, develop and test new knowledge within the clinical practice environment, and use evidence to inform practice and improve outcomes. Leaders in the clinical setting need to provide support to encourage a culture of inquiry. Consequently, research and EBP are an integral part of every nurse's role.

Title:

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Keywords:

Clinical nurses, Hospital-based research program and Research

Abstract Summary:

As the largest group of healthcare providers to care for and spend time with patients, nurses are well-positioned to foster a spirit of inquiry, develop and test new knowledge within the clinical practice environment, and use evidence to inform practice and improve outcomes. Innovation is key to accomplishing this goal.

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Author Summary: Shakira Henderson is a subject matter expert in pediatrics and breastfeeding. She specializes in neonatal nursing and clinical and translational research. She brings more than 15 years of academic and clinical experience to her role. Henderson has been recognized for outstanding achievements in academia and nursing practice with awards locally, regionally, and nationally. She has also been a Sigma Theta Tau International Maternal-Child Health Nurse Leadership Academy faculty advisor, mentor, and fellow.