An Evidence Based Practice Outcome Measure: Analysis of Nurse-Authored Hospital Policy and Procedure Documents

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Learning Objective:
• At the end of this session the learner will be able to discuss the use of policy and procedure document citation data to measure evidence-based nursing practice outcomes.

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• The presenters have no conflict of interest.
Evidence Based Practice

An approach to making health care decisions that integrates
• Best evidence from research
• Provider's clinical expertise
• Patient's preferences
• Values with available resources within a health care system
Policy and Procedures

- Ensures safe and consistent care to patients
- Used to manage various patient care needs
- Describes standards and expectations for nurses
  - Related to performance and roles and responsibilities
- Most often communicated by written protocols
- Created or updated by nurses within an organization
The Problem

• The Institute of Medicine (IOM, 2012) has set a goal that by 2020, 90% of care is based on current evidence.
• While most hospital nurses will say that their practice is based on current evidence this is very difficult to objectively measure.
• Source of their practices often come from hospital policies and procedure documents.
• There is little evidence that specifically looks at the sources of the evidence the nurses use to support these policies and procedures.
The Purpose

• To investigate the use of evidence based practice through an examination of nurse-authored hospital policy and procedure documents.

• Research Questions
  – What are the information sources nurses cite when creating or updating nursing policies and procedures?
  – Are there variations of source citations between rural and urban, and small and large hospitals?
Design

Bibliometric study
• Measures parts of books (documents)

Citation analysis
• Identifies patterns in the exchange of knowledge in a discipline from authors crediting another resource in their documents
Sample

Purposive sample of 22 hospitals

- Full members of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) hospitals
- With staffed medical libraries
- Intermountain west region of the United States
Sample Demographics

10 of the 22 (46%) hospitals shared their documents

- **Location:**
  - 7 in Idaho
  - 3 in Utah

- **Community Size**
  - 7 were urban >50,000
  - 3 were rural <50,000

- **Hospital Size**
  - 7 were large >100 licensed beds
  - 3 were small < 100 licensed beds
Collected Data
Policy and Procedure Nursing Documents
• Updated or created in the last 12 months
• Scanned for in-text and end-of-text citations
• References were printed or copied
• Each citation was entered into Microsoft Access Database
Citations

- Citations are the units of analysis
- 1,561 documents were examined
  - 26% (409) had citations
  - 74% (1,172) had no citations
Analysis

Evaluated on

- Types of sources
- Year of publication
- Strength of evidence represented
- Variations between hospitals
Sources

• 27% Books
• 26% journals
• 20% websites
• 19% government documents
• 8% other: product manuals, databases, meeting minutes
Strength of Evidence

- 1.5% Strong Sources
  - EBP summary databases
- 20% Midlevel Sources
  - EBP journal articles (12%)
  - Primary research articles (7%)
- 27% Weak Sources
  - Textbooks
- 5.5% Very Weak
  - Non-research based practice articles
Variations between Hospitals

- Community Size
  - Rural hospitals cited more books and age of citations were older
Variations between Hospitals

- **Hospital Size**
  - Small hospitals cited government documents more
  - Large hospitals cited more websites
Conclusions

• Small and unique population of documents
• All settings had on-site medical librarians
• Majority (74%) of the initially reviewed documents had NO citations or sources
• Large variation of types of evidence
• Large variation of the strength of evidence
Nursing Implications

Practice, education and leadership curriculums need

• To focus on how to use and then document the sources of evidence.

• To educate the person/s who are preparing the documents.

• To develop partnerships between nurses in hospitals and medical librarians.
Questions?