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Implementation and Evaluation of a Journal Club for Acuity Adaptable Units

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Background: Creating and sustaining a practice environment based on research and evidence is an essential requirement for achieving Magnet, a designation signifying a highly professional nursing clinical setting awarded by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. One strategy for bringing research to the bedside is Journal Club. Journal clubs have been shown to be an effective, interactive strategy for increasing nurses' knowledge of research and evidence. Journal clubs also provide opportunities for experienced nurses to mentor newer nurses in a comfortable, informal setting. The Journal Club can be individualized to meet unit/setting interests, making it a flexible format for contemporary and cutting-edge evidence for addressing current problems and exploring new initiatives. There has been an ongoing evaluation of the Journal Club to determine its effectiveness over time. The purpose was to implement and evaluate a Journal Club for general medical-surgical units.

Methods: Journal Club is held monthly at the same time and location with reminder notices and the feature article disseminated 1- month prior. Facilitated by two Clinical Nurse Specialists, topics are determined by practice priorities and staff recommendations. The Journal Club is implemented by: surveying for best time; maintaining consistent time and location; advertising; and inviting guest speakers. Guest discussants provide provocative and in-depth discussion of a selected article. CNE credits are provided to nurses. The literature-based objectives of the Journal Club were evaluated using a 15 - item survey administered to participants and two open-ended questions.

Results: Within the past 24 months, mean attendance per meeting was 7, range was 3 to 10. A total of 6/6 available participants completed the survey. A 4-point Likert Scale was used with: 1= strongly disagree; 4= strongly agree (higher scores equaling higher satisfaction). The mean satisfaction score was 3.7/4. For item 5, "I feel my overall knowledge about EBP/research has increased by attending Journal Clubs" the mean score was 3.7/4. For the open-ended question, "Why do you choose to attend Journal Club?" the responses were: "great educational delivery model"; "I love this way of learning"; it helps me to provide the best care for my patients" "the people and knowledge obtained"; and "to learn and keep updated knowledge". For the open-ended question, "What do you like about the Journal Club?" the response was "the topics are in just the right time for the clinical uses which is very instrumental".

Conclusions: Results indicate nurses' satisfaction with Journal Club, and an increased attainment of overall knowledge about EBP/Research. The effectiveness of Journal Clubs on supporting evidence-based clinical decision making is not clearly evident. A different approach is needed to evaluate the impact of a Journal Club on use of EBP/Research in clinical practice.

Title:

Implementation and Evaluation of a Journal Club for Acuity Adaptable Units

Keywords:

Clinical Education Strategy, Evidence-based Practice and Journal Club

References:

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Abstract Summary:

One clinical educational strategy for bringing research to the bedside is implementation of a Journal Club. This educational activity will discuss methods to facilitate and evaluate a Journal Club as a teaching strategy in Acuity Adaptable Units.

Content Outline:**I. Introduction**

A. One strategy for bringing research to the bedside is implementation of a Journal Club.

B. The purpose was to implement and evaluate a Journal Club for Acuity Adaptable Units

II. Highlights of Journal Clubs

A. Creating and sustaining a practice environment based on research and evidence is an essential requirement for achieving Magnet status

B. Effective, interactive to increase nurses' knowledge of research and evidence

C. Provide Opportunities for for experienced nurses to mentor newer nurses

D. Can be individualized to meet unit/setting needs

E. Serve as a format to address issues/explore new initiatives

III. Methodology of Journal Club for Acuity Adaptable Units

A. Standard schedule: same time/place with reminder notices

B. Feature article distributed one month prior to Journal Club

C. Future topics based on suggestions from participants or current clinical practice needs

D. Professional guest speakers are elicited

E. Continuing nursing education credit provided to those who meet the criteria

F. Clinical Nurse Specialists facilitate each Journal Club

IV. Results

A. Evaluation of the Journal Club was completed via survey to determine effectiveness over time

B. Mean attendance was 7 with a range of 3-10.

C. The mean overall satisfaction score was 3.7/4 on a 4-point Likert Scale

D. For the survey item, "I feel my overall knowledge about evidence-based practice/research has increased by attending Journal Clubs", the mean score was 3.4/4.

V. Conclusion

A. Results indicate Acuity Adaptable nurses' satisfaction with Journal Club, and an increased attainment of overall knowledge about evidence-based practice/research.

B. An approach to evaluate the active constituents of a Journal Club is needed to comprehend how Journal clubs may support use of evidence-based practice/research in clinical practice.

First Primary Presenting Author

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Professional Experience: Jennifer has worked in nursing since 1995. She graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing in Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). Jennifer was Vice President of her undergraduate nursing class. While in her masters program, she received the Academic Achievement Award. Jennifer currently is employed as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in Acuity Adaptable at Eskenazi Health since 2008; Clinical Faculty for Western Governors University in the BSN track from 2012-2017; and CNS preceptor for IU School of Nursing since 2009. Previously she worked as a staff nurse at Community Hospitals Indianapolis in cardiac progressive care, medical-surgical, and women's health nursing where she was a two time recipient of the Nursing Leadership Scholarship. Jennifer is certified in Adult Health CNS, and Cardiovascular Nursing (CVRN).

Author Summary: Jennifer was National Association of CNS Preceptor of the Year in 2014. She received the Excellence in Nursing Practice Award from STTI, Alpha Chapter (2013), received research grants (2009, 2013), and served as Secretary/Board of Directors (2010-2012). She is the Chair of the Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety Heart Failure Readmission Workgroup since 2013. Jennifer has published on a variety of nursing topics and has presented her research at local, regional, national and international conferences.

Second Secondary Presenting Author

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Professional Experience: I have been a nurse since 1973. I was inducted into the Lamda Sigma chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. I was nursing faculty at The Christ Hospital School of Nursing providing both classroom and clinical instruction. I have a Master's in Education degree majoring in Counseling & Guidance, and Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in Adult Health. I and was awarded "Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Nursing", and several scholarships by the American Diabetes Association (ADA). I became Certified as a Diabetes Educator in 1999 and Adult Health CNS in 2000. At Eskenazi Health in Indianapolis, Indiana, I assisted in getting programs accredited by the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE). I provide diabetes education on an inpatient basis in addition to providing diabetes-related education for my professional colleagues. I have presented at several national and local conferences in addition to being a co-author on several diabetes-related manuscripts.

Author Summary: Margie Hull been a nurse in 1973 with an avid interest in diabetes self-care management. She has certifications in both diabetes and adult health. Margie holds both a M.Ed and a MSN.

Third Author

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Author Summary: Dr. Fulton is Associate Dean for Graduate Programs at Indiana University School of Nursing. She has held multiple academic and professional leadership roles in the area of advanced practice nursing, and has many publications and presentations regarding clinical nurse specialist role and practice. Her textbook, Foundations of Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice, received a 2014 AJN Book of the Year award. She is currently the Editor of Clinical Nurse Specialist: The Journal for Advanced Nursing Practice.