Implementing Evidence-based Practice in Real World Practice Settings: Key Strategies for Conducting and Disseminating EBP Implementation Projects

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The Merging of Science and Art: EBP within a Context of Caring & EBP Culture and Environment Results in the Highest Quality of Patient Care

- **Context of Caring**
  - Research Evidence & Evidence-based Theories
  - Clinical Expertise and Evidence from assessment of the patient’s history and condition as well as healthcare resources
  - Patient Preferences and Values

- **EBP Culture & Environment**
  - Clinical Decision-making
  - Quality Patient Outcomes

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Evidence-Based Practice is the integration of Best Evidence with Clinical Practice.
The Difference between Research and an EBP Implementation Project

• **Research:** a rigorous systematic inquiry designed to generate new knowledge and external evidence

• **EBP Implementation Project:** Implementation of a practice change based upon external evidence generated from research for the ultimate purpose of improving patient outcomes (may also integrate internal evidence)
# The Steps of EBP

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The EBP Process

1. Clinical Inquiry
   - Formulate a Searchable, Answerable Question (PICOT)

2. Search for the Best Evidence

   - Integrate the Evidence with Clinical Expertise and Patient Preference(s)
   - Generate Evidence Internal: QI External: Research

4. Evaluate Outcomes based on Evidence

5. Disseminate the Outcome(s)
A Critical Step in EBP: The PICO(T) Question

Ask the burning clinical question in **PICO(T) format**

- **P**atient population
- **I**ntervention or Interest area
- **C**omparison intervention or group
- **O**utcome
- **T**ime

In *adolescents with depression (P)*, how does *CBT (I)* versus *interpersonal therapy (C)* affect *depressive symptoms (O)* 3 months after treatment (T)?
Levels of Evidence

- Systematic review or meta-analysis of all relevant randomized controlled trials (RCTs),
- Evidence-based clinical practice guidelines based on systematic reviews of RCTs
- Evidence obtained from at least one well-designed RCT
- Evidence obtained from well-designed controlled trials without randomization and from well-designed case-control and cohort studies
- Evidence from systematic reviews of descriptive and qualitative studies
- Evidence from a single descriptive or qualitative study
- Evidence from the opinion of authorities and/or reports of expert committees

Usefulness for Cause & Effect Decision Making
Why Measure Outcomes?

• Evaluating outcomes of an EBP change is important to determine whether the findings from research are similar when translated into the real world clinical practice setting.

• When an effective intervention from research is translated into clinical practice where confounding variables are not controlled and the patients are not the same as those used in research, the outcomes in the real world may be different.
Why Measure the Outcomes of EBP?

Outcomes reflect IMPACT!

- **EBP’s effect on patients**
  - Physiologic (complication reduction; health improvement)
  - Psychosocial (quality of life; depressive and anxiety symptoms; patient satisfaction with care)
  - Functional improvement

- **EBP’s effect on the health system**
  - Decreased cost, length of stay
  - Nursing retention / job satisfaction
  - Interdisciplinary collaboration
Important Questions to Ask When Selecting Outcomes to Measure of the EBP Project

• Are the outcomes of interest sensitive to change?
• How will the outcome of interest be measured (subjectively through self-report, objectively by observation, or through EHR data)?
• Are there valid and reliable instruments to measure the outcomes of interest?
• Who will measure the outcomes and will training be necessary?
• What is the cost of measuring the outcomes?
When to Measure Outcomes

• Before the practice change (at baseline)
• Shortly after the practice change (short-term follow-up)
• More long-term after the practice change, which provides data on the sustainable impact of the EBP change
Remember to Also Include Process Measures That Lead to the Outcomes

• Process measures are how the EBP change is being implemented (e.g., Are the staff implementing the practice change as designed; Is it being consistently implemented; What are the barriers or facilitators of the EBP change?)
Steps of an EBP Implementation Project

• Identify the problem; include data on the prevalence of the problem in your setting
• Ask the PICO question
• Search for and critically appraise the evidence
• Evaluate and synthesize the evidence
• Decide upon the best evidence-based practice change
Steps of an EBP Implementation Project

• Identify goals for implementation of the EBP change, methods to be undertaken (e.g., education of staff, use of protocol sheets), potential barriers with strategies, outcomes to be measured, time-line and persons responsible for each goal
• Obtain IRB approval if needed
• Collect baseline data
Colleagues who are skeptical of or who do not believe in EBP may be a huge barrier to the success of an EBP implementation project.
Steps of an EBP Implementation Project

• Implement the evidence-based practice change
• Measure the process and outcomes of the evidence-based practice change
• Disseminate the outcomes and celebrate the success!
Reducing Falls in a Definitive Observation Unit: An Evidence-Based Practice Institute Consortium Project

Gutierrez, F. & Smith, K; Published in CCQ

- **The Problem Identified by a Spirit of Inquiry (Step 0)**
  - Falls in a high-acuity cardiac and medical surgical telemetry unit were exceeding the California Nursing Outcomes Coalition benchmark for hospitals similar in size.
  - Each fall costs a hospital an average of $11,402 depending on injury and length of stay.
Reducing Falls in a Definitive Observation Unit: An Evidence-Based Practice Institute Consortium Project

• **The PICO Question (Step 1)**

  In a convenience sample of inpatients determined to be at high risk for falling (P), how does identifying and modifying practices determined to be obstructive to implementation of an evidence-based fall prevention practice (I) compared with current practice (C) reduce the occurrence of falls (O)?
Reducing Falls in a Definitive Observation Unit: An Evidence-Based Practice Institute Consortium Project

- **The Search for Evidence (Step 2)**

  - A literature review of published fall-related research was conducted

  - 100 publications underwent initial review, and then narrowed to 22 for thorough review; 18 were finally selected to be used to guide this EBP implementation project (most of the studies were conducted without random assignment)
Reducing Falls in a Definitive Observation Unit: An Evidence-Based Practice Institute Consortium Project

• **Critical Appraisal of the Studies from the Search Led to the Following Conclusions (Step 3)**
  - The etiology of falls is multifactorial
  - The following interventions reduce falls
    * Regular hourly rounding
    * Educational oversight of an active prevention protocol
    * An assessment tool
    * Ensuring appropriate lighting, clearing clutter, and removing trip hazards
Reducing Falls in a Definitive Observation Unit: An Evidence-Based Practice Institute Consortium Project

- **Integration of the Evidence with Clinical Expertise and Patient Preferences to Determine the Practice Change (Step 4: Action)**

  A team, consisting of a bedside nurse (a fellow), an APN (the mentor), and a CNS (the project mentor) was formed to work on creating and implementing the EBP change to reduce falls; They attended an EBP institute, which was a consortium of local hospitals for nursing excellence in San Diego.

  Paid time was given to work on the project (6 to 8 hour paid monthly sessions over 5 months and 48-hours paid non-clinical time).

  The fellow recruited the education training team that consisted of 2 day-shift and 2 night-shift RNs who ended up being champions for the project.
Reducing Falls in a Definitive Observation Unit: An Evidence-Based Practice Institute Consortium Project

• **Integration of the Evidence to Determine the Practice Change (Step 4: Action)**

  Baseline data was collected regarding current practices to prevent falls, including surveys with nurses and physicians regarding what interventions they were using that helped to prevent falls.

  Based on external and internal evidence, a SAFE (Specialty Adult Focused Environment) area and evidence-based fall prevention protocol was embedded into a new standard of evidence-based care for fall prevention.
Reducing Falls in a Definitive Observation Unit: An Evidence-Based Practice Institute Consortium Project

- **Evaluate the outcomes of the EBP change**

  *(Step 5)*

  - In the previous three quarters before the EBP protocol was implemented, fall rates rose from 3.0/1000 patient days to 4.87/1000 patient days.

  - In the first phase of the EBP change, fall rates dropped to 3.59/1000 patient days and staff knowledge increased regarding use of the fall prevention protocol.
Facilitators

The RN Champions were determined to be a key ingredient to the success of this project.
Impact of Oral Hygiene on Prevention of Ventilator-associated Pneumonia in Neuroscience Patients

Powers, J., Brower, A. & Tolliver, S.;
Published in Journal of Nursing Care Quality

• The Problem Identified by a Spirit of Inquiry (Step 0)

- Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) is one of the most frequent complications among critically ill patients
- The incidence of VAP is 10 to 65 percent
- Patients with VAP have a mortality rate of 12 to 71%
- Patients with VAP have increased ICU LOS from 4.3 to 19 days, costing $57,000 per occurrence
Impact of Oral Hygiene on Prevention of Ventilator-associated Pneumonia in Neuroscience Patients

- **The PICO Question (Step 1)**
  - In adult neuroscience patients (P), how does implementation of an evidence-based oral hygiene protocol (I) versus the current protocol being used (C) result in fewer episodes of VAP?
Impact of Oral Hygiene on Prevention of Ventilator-associated Pneumonia in Neuroscience Patients

• **The Search for Evidence (Step 2)**
  - Etiology of VAP
  - A positive association exists between dental plaque and VAP
  - Several studies have linked the method of oral hygiene (e.g., antiseptic rinses) to the prevention of VAP
Critical Appraisal of the Evidence (Step 3)

- Little evidence supports current oral care practices by nurses
- Little evidence exists to inform oral care with neuroscience patients
Impact of Oral Hygiene on Prevention of Ventilator-associated Pneumonia in Neuroscience Patients

• **Integration of the Evidence to Inform Best Practice (Step 4: Action)**
  - A multidisciplinary ventilator management program team was developed, with a goal to decrease VAP
  - An evidence-based protocol for oral care was developed, including use of an antiseptic rinse with brushing the teeth every 12 hours, use of oral swabs every 4 hours, and deep oral-pharyngeal suctioning every 12 hours
Impact of Oral Hygiene on Prevention of Ventilator-associated Pneumonia in Neuroscience Patients

• **Evaluation of Outcomes (Step 5)**
  - In the first phase of implementation, the neuroscience unit went 13 weeks without any cases of VAP and 20 weeks with only one case
  - 5 months into the evaluation period, several cases of VAP were identified: the cause was investigated and learned that the unit was out of deep oral suctioning catheters, which went undetected
  - The oral care kits had been introduced as a trial and the staff thought the trial was over
  - The catheters are now packaged routinely as an oral care kit
Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing™
Linking Evidence to Action (Current Impact Factor = 2.38)

Editor
Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, CNPN/PMHNP, FAANP, FAAN

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Implementing and Sustaining EBP in Real World Healthcare Settings Column in Worldviews: Ideal for Publishing EBP Implementation Projects

Implementing EBP Column

Implementing and Sustaining EBP in Real World Healthcare Settings: A Leader’s Role in Creating a Strong Context for EBP

Lynn Gallagher-Ford, RN, PhD, DPNAP, NE-BC
Column Editor for “Implementing and Sustaining EBP in Real World Healthcare Settings”

This column shares the best evidence-based strategies and innovative ideas on how to promote and sustain evidence-based practices and cultures in clinical organizations. Guidelines for submission are available at http://worldviews.library.aacn.nursing/10.1111/wlv.12147

INTRODUCTION

A growing body of research has linked EBP to improved patient outcomes and increased patient satisfaction. However, despite the overwhelming evidence supporting EBP, implementation remains a challenge for many healthcare organizations. A common lament is that “the evidence is there, but it’s not being used.” This column aims to address this issue by providing practical strategies for implementing and sustaining EBP in real-world healthcare settings.

BACKGROUND

Implementing EBP requires a commitment from all levels of the healthcare organization. Leaders play a critical role in creating a supportive environment for EBP and ensuring that the organization is ready to implement evidence-based practices. This column is designed to help leaders navigate the complexities of EBP implementation and sustain these practices over time.

The Process of Council Formation

The conversion of committees to councils began with the development of a steering committee to guide the implementation of the EBP initiative. The steering committee reviewed the literature and best practices from other EBP programs and developed a comprehensive plan for the implementation of EBP in the organization. This plan was presented to the nursing staff, and feedback was solicited to ensure buy-in and support for the initiative.

The Inaugural Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the EBP council was held, and initial goals and objectives were established. The council voted on committee assignments and established a timeline for implementation. The council also identified resources needed for implementation, such as training and educational materials.

The Implementation of EBP

Implementation required a multidisciplinary approach, involving nurses, physicians, and other healthcare providers. The council developed a set of guidelines for implementing evidence-based practices and established mechanisms for monitoring progress and evaluating outcomes.

The Evaluation of EBP

Evaluation of the EBP initiative was conducted on an ongoing basis, with data collected and analyzed to assess the impact of the implementation on patient outcomes. The council also reviewed the need for any modifications to the EBP program to ensure that it remained relevant and effective.

The Future of EBP

The future of EBP is promising, with a growing recognition of its importance in improving patient outcomes. However, continued commitment and support from leaders are necessary to sustain EBP in real-world healthcare settings. As healthcare organizations continue to evolve, leaders must remain vigilant in their pursuit of evidence-based practices that are effective and patient-centered.

The American Nurses Association Scope and Standards for Nurse Administrators states that nurse administrators are responsible to “integrate research findings into practice and create a supportive environment with sufficient resources for nursing research, scholarly inquiry, and the generation of knowledge.” By fostering a culture of evidence-based practice and supporting the implementation of EBP, leaders can help ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

REFERENCES


REMEMBER.....

Author Guidelines

*Length*
Up to 1200 words

*References*
5-10 references

You never get a 2\textsuperscript{nd} chance to make a great first impression

THIS IS A GREAT PLACE TO START YOUR WRITING CAREER!
Improving Patient Care through XXXXXXXX

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Manuscript is submitted; The journey begins!
Three Scenarios with Submitted Manuscripts

• Accept
• Revise and resubmit
• Reject - Typical reasons include:
  – A similar paper was recently published
  – Writing style not clear- a fatal flaw!
  – Poor writing
  – Poor logic and flow
  – Inadequate description of the steps of EBP
I can’t believe they didn’t like my work!
Revise and Persist through the Character-Builders!

• Important Facts to Remember
  - Very few papers are accepted without revisions
  - Many well written papers are rejected because the content and focus would be better suited to another journal
  - The paper is NOT you!
Persistence is a Key to Success

Theodor S. Geisel wrote a children’s book that was rejected by 23 publishers. The 24th publisher sold 6 million copies of the first “Dr. Seuss Book.”
“I’ve looked at life from both sides now....”

- It is intimidating.
- It takes courage.
- You need to be confident in your content.
- You may have to face rejection(at first).
- Believing it’s possible and perseverance are keys to success.
- You can do this!
Ask yourself:

- What would you do if you knew you could not fail in the next 2 to 3 years?

- What is the smallest EBP change you can make that would have the greatest positive impact on your patients’ outcomes?
“...because we’ve always done it that way.”
The Next 30 to 90 Days are Critical for Action

- Formulate your plan according to the 7 steps of EBP
- Collect baseline data
- Begin Implementation
You Must Dream It Before You Can Do it!

What will you do tomorrow and in the next 2 to 3 years if you know that you could not fail?

Shoot for the moon, even if you miss, you will hit the stars

There Is A Magic In Thinking Big!

-Les Brown
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