



GUEST EDITORIAL

Evidence-Based Practice is Here to Stay

Nurses around the globe are embracing evidence-based practice (EBP). Nurses are curious about their nursing practice and often ask “Why are we doing this treatment this way?” and “Is this treatment going to help my patient?” These and similar questions provoke nurses to search the literature to try to find the answers. Their goal is to use current best evidence to improve patient care and make health care as cost-effective as possible. The steps that they take in this process include identifying the clinical problem, developing a clinical question that will guide the literature search, locating the most relevant and best research evidence, critically appraising the evidence, integrating the evidence along with their clinical expertise and the patient’s preferences and values to make a practice change, evaluating outcomes of the practice change based on the evidence, and disseminating the outcomes of the practice change (Melnik&Fineout-Overholt, 2011, p. 11).

Nursing and Midwifery provides a scientific venue for nurses to find evidence to answer their clinical questions as well as reports of quality improvement (QI) initiatives that were implemented and evaluated. A resource that may guide manuscript development of reports of QI initiatives is the Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence (SQUIRE), which can be found at <http://squire-statement.org/>. Reports of QI initiatives are instructive to other nurses considering similar practice changes in their settings. For example, a detailed description of the intervention helps in reproducing it and avoids unnecessary mistakes. While improvement interventions will need to be tailored to the local population and setting, understanding contextual factors that influenced the effectiveness of the published QI initiative is useful for nurses attempting to replicate the intervention. Well written reports of QI initiatives demonstrate that evidence-based practice is thriving and here to stay.

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References

MELNYK, B. M., FINEOUT-OVERHOLT, E. *Evidence-based practice in nursing and healthcare: A guide to best practice*. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: WoltersKluwer/LippincottWilliams&Wilkins, 2011. 624 p.