Celebrating Nursing Science: The Research-Practice Link

Wound Care Panel

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How does research get to practice???
- Journals
- Conferences/seminars
- Poster presentations
- National standards
  - Professional organizations
  - Government standards
  - Public groups/organizations
- Research grants
- List serves

Answer to a question

1992 Clinical Nurse Specialists identified need for pressure ulcer prevention

Validated need with
- Staff
- WOCN
- Quality Department
- Administration
- Risk Management
- Physicians
- Annual Pressure Ulcer prevalence survey data
What should ‘we’ do???

- Brainstorm
- Benchmark
  - Professional organizations
  - National/proprietary databases
  - List serves
  - Phone calls/e-mails
- Review the literature
  - Are there current standards?
  - Do any research reports have questions relevant to our needs?

Current standards:

- Pressure Ulcers in Adults: Prediction and Prevention (Clinical Practice Guideline, May 1992, US Dept. HHS, AHCPR [now AHRQ])
- Pressure Ulcers: Incidence, economics, risk assessment, Consensus development conference statement (National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, 1989)

Should we use the research literature we found???

- Research question relevant
- Literature review/reference list ‘current’
- Number of subjects and sampling procedure
- Characteristics of subjects
- Characteristics of facility
- Protocol logical for research question
- Tools reliable and valid
- Resources available
- Conclusions and discussion correlate with the data
- Results clinically significant (vs. statistically significant)
What did we learn from the literature???

• Perform systematic risk assessment and reassessment at periodic intervals
• Research determined validity and reliability of the Braden Scale
• Research identified the Braden Scale was:
  – best performed by RNs
  – easy to gather the data and complete the tool
  – quick (< 1 minute/patient)
  – easy math (user friendly)
• Braden Scale literature primarily long-term care

Question:

• Are the benefits of the change worth the costs to
  – patient
  – family
  – staff
  – expenditure on other resources (equipment, supplies, personnel)?

What has research demonstrated over time?


• Risk assessment with the Braden Scale good predictive value
• Braden Scale assists with identification of patient interventions
• Tertiary care facilities studied
• 100% sensitivity (!); 64-90% specificity
• Pressure ulcer distribution described
What has research demonstrated over time?

- Assess patients on admission
- Re-assess at 48-72 hours
- Best sensitivity of assessment: 48-72 hours after admission
- Validated score of 18 cutoff for patients at low risk for pressure ulcer development
- Identified pressure ulcer developed Day 11 (mean)
- Formal risk assessments → best use of resources

What has research demonstrated over time?

- Braden Scale score cutoff of 18 valid for both black and white patients

Translation into practice:
- Awareness of trends provides a preview of possible practice changes
- Access research reports
- Evaluate quality of research
- Evaluate ‘fit’ of research to practice situation
- Develop co-champions
- Develop the plan: implement, evaluate, maintain, continue to improve & advance practice/patient care
- Keep asking WHY???
Thank you