

Dissemination of nursing knowledge - Presentations at professional meetings

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Raising the Professional Bar: Moving the Conversation in a Critical Care Environment. Poster presentation at the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, National Teaching Institute; Chicago; May 2008.

Purpose: The activities of professional inquiry influence how nurses view themselves as professionals. An integrated approach was initiated to create an environment that will support and foster the scholarly. Professional activities and authorship will raise the level of engagement in evidenced based nursing.

Description: All interested staff of the Adult Intensive Care Unit were invited to be part of the 'Journal, Publication, Research' group (AICU-JPR). A mission statement was developed and the overall goals of the group were stated. A framework was developed to support diverse scholarly activities: authorship, presentations, journal club discussions and participation in professional organizations. The aim of these activities are to increase the visibility of clinical inquiry, develop the skills to systematically examine clinical questions, extend the practice of evidence based nursing, and create a healthy learning/ working environment for our nurses. Our initial focus has been to demystify the process of inquiry and scholarship. Tools and formats are evolving in collaboration with management, nurse educators, researchers, librarians and the IT department. The journal club includes discussion meetings on the unit and will be supported by an intranet e-blog, which will provide a forum for the nurses unable to attend traditional meetings. Bi-monthly meetings provide peer support along with mentoring assistance. Research ideas are being generated through discussions at both the meetings and in daily conversation on the unit.

Evaluation and Outcomes: Combining innovation, technology and flexibility, we are moving beyond the barriers of time, inexperience and limited role models. We have 17 nurses involved in the AICU-JPR; many of them are involved in generating research questions and writing. 3 articles are in process for possible future publication. The journal club is active and many researchable questions are being asked. The unit's conversation is changing as the environment has shifted.