Increasing Nursing Leaderships’ Knowledge and Support of Nursing Research

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Nursing leaders at acute care hospitals often lack knowledge on how to engage nurses in clinical inquiry such as research and evidence-based practice (EBP).1,2.

Describe barriers to engaging nurses in clinical inquiry as perceived by nurse leaders.

Test whether an interactive learning module improves nurse leaders' knowledge of clinical inquiry.

Background
- Nursing leaders at acute care hospitals often lack knowledge on how to engage nurses in clinical inquiry such as research and evidence-based practice (EBP).1,2.

Objectives
- Describe barriers to engaging nurses in clinical inquiry as perceived by nurse leaders.
- Test whether an interactive learning module improves nurse leaders' knowledge of clinical inquiry.

Methods
- Nurse leaders (n=300) at 6 mid-size hospitals recruited via email.
- Participants completed the "Barriers to Nurses’ Participation in Research Questionnaire"3, a valid and reliable 34-question (10-minute) pre-test and 26-question (5-minute) post-test; both with 3 open-ended questions were provided:
  - At baseline
  - After completing a 45-minute module on research designed by a Regional Nurse Researcher
- Quantitative data were analyzed in SPSS with descriptive statistics and t-tests.
- Qualitative data were analyzed with content analysis

Results
- A total of n = 17 nurse leaders completed the pre-survey.
- N = 8 completed the post-survey.
- Participants were both unit and executive-level nurse leaders.
- A majority of the sample was female (76%) aged between 20 and 70 years
- 65% reported a specialty nurse certification, 18% had an Associate’s, 24% had a Bachelor’s degree, 59% had a Master’s. Zero had a Doctor of Nursing Practice or nursing PhD.
- Pre-test group (n = 17) reported several barriers to engaging nurses in clinical inquiry (Table 1).
  - Qualitative responses further identified lack of:
    - Administrative support
    - Data collection
    - On-site research mentor
    - Training on how to develop and execute research projects.

Outcomes
- Knowledge
  - Disagree/strongly disagree 4 (24%)
  - Neither agree or disagree 4 (24%)
  - Agree/strongly agree 9 (53%)
- Incentives
  - Disagree/strongly disagree 6 (35%)
  - Neither agree or disagree 2 (12%)
  - Agree/strongly agree 9 (53%)
- Mentors
  - Disagree/strongly disagree 4 (24%)
  - Neither agree or disagree 3 (18%)
  - Agree/strongly agree 10 (59%)
- Infrastructure
  - Disagree/strongly disagree 6 (35%)
  - Neither agree or disagree 4 (24%)
  - Agree/strongly agree 7 (41%)
- Financial resources
  - Disagree/strongly disagree 2 (11%)
  - Neither agree or disagree 3 (18%)
  - Agree/strongly agree 12 (71%)