Nursing Research Series

Essentials of Science: Methods, Appraisal and Utilization

Yes, You can be a Research Investigator!

Objectives

- After reviewing this module, the learner will be able to:
  - Describe two roles related to implementing a research study
  - List three requirements for Kaiser Permanente Registered Nurses (RN) who desire to participate as research investigators
Study Roles

– Primary Investigator (PI)
  • Main person directing the study
  • Primary person responsible for systematic implementation of the study
  • Responsible for Institutional Review Board approval and on-going ethical implementation
  • Fiscally responsible for the study budget
  • Completes final interpretation and dissemination decisions

(Polit & Beck, 2004)

Study Roles

– Co-Investigators
  • Ongoing collaboration and communication with PI on study proposal, design, and protocol implementation
  • If multi-site study, responsible for local implementation
  • Participate in data collection
  • Contribute to decisions about any protocol modifications
  • Participate in data analysis and interpretation of findings
  • Participate in dissemination of results

Study Roles

– Research Assistants/Data Collectors
  • Collect data and/or complete research related activities under the direction of PI or Co-Investigators

– Statistician
  • Assists with data analysis

– Consultants
  • Bring expertise on a short term basis
Registered Nurses (RN), at Kaiser Permanente Southern California, can be a Research Investigator on a study with the following requirements:

1. Commitment to the topic and on-going completion of the research study
2. Organizational and managerial support to participate/complete the study
3. Knowledge of the systematic research process through formal education, in-services, and/or previous research experience
4. Direct knowledge of the purpose, design, methods, and protocols related to the study
5. Human Subjects and Protected Health Information (HIPAA) training for research participation
6. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval

So what does each of the six requirements mean?

1) Commitment
   - Desire and passion to answer the research question
   - Vested interest in study completion
   - Attend co-investigator meetings
   - Promise of your resources-- time and energy over study period. A study can last 1-2 years

2) Organizational Support
   - Consult, and obtain signatures from your Manager, Nurse Executive, or Ambulatory Practice Leader
   - Speak to your Local Medical Center Liaison
   - Regional Nurse Scientists and resources
3) Knowledge of the Research Process

Obtained through one, some, or all of the following:

- Research and statistics classes during your formal education
- Web based E-learning modules
- Participation on research committees and/or Journal Clubs
- Previous experience in research activities

4) Direct study knowledge

- Able to state the study purpose, design, and steps of the protocol
- Able to state the present phase of the research process throughout the study timeline (example: in design, data collection, analysis, or manuscript development)
- Verbalize how data are or were securely:
  - Collected
  - Stored
  - Submitted to analyst
- Knowledge of where paperwork is for your facility/center
- Status of IRB approval for your facility/center

5) Human Subjects Protection Training

- Web based tutorial from the NIH
- HIPAA PowerPoint tutorial
- Reviews levels of protected health information (PHI)

Directions for both found on the internal IRB website: Http://scalresearch.kp.org/irb/index.html

Resume or Curriculum Vitae

- Submitted to IRB with proposal
- Frequently a requirement for abstract, poster, and podium submission
Requirements

6) IRB Approval
   - Data collection occurs after approval
   - Changes to the protocol, or adding sites for data collection, require IRB approval through a modification process
   - The PI submits a yearly report to continue a study year to year until it is deemed closed. This is usually after interpretation of analyzed data and manuscript development

In Summary

- There are specific roles and responsibilities when participating in a research study
- Requirements are also present for human subject protection while conducting research
- Please connect with the nursing research resources at your Medical Center and at the Regional Nursing Research Program for support

Nursing Research is an exciting opportunity to:
- Help answer clinical questions
- Increase the body of nursing knowledge
- Increase your skill set as a professional Registered Nurse
Reach for the Stars

Be part of the discovery of new knowledge through research!

References to Consider


For more information please contact:
Nursing.Research@kp.org
http://nursingpathways.kp.org/ncall/research/index.html

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