Review of the Literature

By the completion of this presentation, the participant will be able to:

• Describe the importance of a literature review
• Explain how to matrix the results of a literature review
• Understand how to synthesize the literature review findings
Literature Review Purpose

- Acts as a Source for Research Ideas
- Describes What is Already Known
- Provides for a Conceptual Context
- Describes Potential Research Approaches/Methods

Definition & Activities

- **Narrative or Literature Review:**
  - Critical research summary on a topic of interest, often to put a research problem into context. Captures a "snapshot" of the clinical problem or issue.
- **Activities:**
  - Identify and search for information on the research topic
  - Develop and understand the state of the knowledge via
    - Database search
    - Creation of a Matrix
    - Synthesis of Review Results
    - Summarize the Review Findings
  - Use the review to frame the research question or problem within the existing body of knowledge

The Research Question

- **Hourly Rounding**
  - "What is the effect of hourly rounding by nursing staff in the acute care hospital setting, as compared to current practice?"
- **Pressure Ulcers**
  - "What are the predictors of Pressure Ulcers (PU) in high risk adult patients in the acute care hospital setting?"
Literature Search FAQ

- Where do I find the literature?
- When do I stop looking?
- Doesn’t expert opinion count?
- What is relevant?
- Now what?

Scope of the Literature Search

Types of Information
- Research
- Theoretical explanations
- Methodology
- Opinions and Viewpoints
- Clinical reports and anecdotes

Capture the depth and breadth of the literature!

Literature Search FAQ

Where do I find the literature?

- Traditional/Print
  - Journal articles
  - Article References
  - Professional Organizations
  - Web search engines

What are Primary Sources?
- Actual research studies

What are Secondary Sources?
- Reviews
- Synthesis reports

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**Electronic Databases**

- Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL)
- Ovid
- Medline
- PubMed
- EBSCO Host
- ClinicalTrials.gov
- Grateful Med
- Joanna Briggs Institute
- Virginia Henderson Library

**KP Clinical Library Website**

http://cl.kp.org

**Down the Rabbit Hole!**

**Synthesis of the literature findings is the major activity of the literature review**

- Do not make database searches the major activity of the literature review
  - Don’t get lost in databases
  - Use Medical Life Science Librarians to prevent “dropping down the rabbit hole!”

**Search Strategies**

**Hourly Rounding**

- **Search Terms:** Hourly rounding, hourly surveillance, nursing rounds, nurse rounding, nurse surveillance, outcomes, patient comfort rounds
- **Limits:** 2000-2007
- **Databases:** Cochrane, CINAHL, Ovid, PubMed, PSYCHOinfo

**Pressure Ulcers**

- **Search Terms:** Braden Scale, operating room, pressure ulcer prevention, critical care, intensive care
- **Limits:** 1992-2006; 2002-2007
- **Databases:** Cochrane, CINAHL, Ovid, Medline, PubMed
Literature Search FAQ

When do I stop looking?
- When you have hit “saturation”
- Need an exhaustive literature review
- When you start seeing the same articles, authors, themes, & patterns
- When the same references are being cited in similar articles
- When you can’t find any relevant literature

What is relevant?
- Definition of relevant:
  - “Having a bearing on or connection with the matter at hand”
    (www.dictionary.com)
- Does the literature have a direct bearing on or connection with the research question?

Doesn’t expert opinion count?

• Yes, but ensure the experts are qualified
  – Quality improves when experts are:
    • Nationally & internationally known
    • Conducted high quality research
    • Published their results in peer-review journals
Matrixing the Literature

- Something resembling a mathematical matrix, especially in rectangular arrangement of elements into rows and columns
- Something within or from which something else originates, develops, or takes form

Components of a Literature Matrix

- Needs to Reflect the Literature Being Searched
- Needs to be Flexible
- Common Headings

Common Matrix Headings

- ID Code
- Article Type
- Aims
- Design
- Sample
- Population
- Data Collection
- Data Analysis
- Study Purpose
- Study Aim
- Results
- Findings
- Conclusions
- Recommendations
- Limitations
- Other
Synthesizing the Literature

NOW WHAT?
• Synthesize the key concepts
  – What are the strengths?
  – What are the limitations?
    • The particular into the general
    • Patterns and themes
    • Contrasts and comparisons
  – What are the next steps
  – How does the proposed study relate to the next steps
Synthesizing the Literature

• Most common mistake of the beginner is to repeat the literature
• Should be a fully synthesized report
  – Not a laundry list of topic findings

Synthesize:
“To combine so as to form a new, complex product.”

www.dictionary.com

Writing Up the Literature

Central Tasks
• To organize and summarize the references in such a way that the current state of the knowledge is assessed
  – Synthesis summary statement
• To lay the systematic foundation for the current study

Points to Ponder
• Describe particularly relevant studies in some detail
• Paraphrase: Demonstrate the efforts put forth
• If they exist, include conflicting studies and ideas
  – Illustrates breadth and depth of the topic
• Summarize using critical judgments

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Hourly Nurse Rounding

- A protocol incorporating specific actions into nursing rounds, either every 1 or 2 hours, can reduce frequency of patient call light use, increase patient satisfaction with nursing care, and reduce patient falls.
- Rounding has the potential to produce a quieter patient environment, provide additional time for patient care, and increase staff nurse satisfaction.
- Nursing leadership is a key factor to the implementation of rounding.
- Nurse managers are crucial for the success of unit-based nurse rounding.
- Creating a culture of safety is an ongoing developmental process requiring organizational, managerial, and staff partnerships.

Synthesis Statement

Conclusions & Recommendations

Current nursing culture fosters the lofty expectation of clinical perfection [4]. While clinical perfection is unrealistic, clinical excellence is a possible and attainable goal. The pursuit of clinical excellence has led to the fragmentation of nursing tasks and functions. Research has shown that improved patient-care management, patient satisfaction, and patient safety are achievable with interventions that nurses can independently initiate and carry out [1]. One intervention that shows promise for attaining clinical excellence while also decreasing fragmented patient care is hourly nurse rounding [1,2,3].

An examination of hourly rounding by nursing staff revealed only one research study exploring the complexities of this topic. Paired with anecdotal and other information, this groundbreaking study represents the best information to date on hourly nurse rounding. The literature review demonstrates the need for more research on this important clinical topic. However, this back-to-basic nursing care method has the potential to link several organizational initiatives, while also promoting the professionalism of the bedside staff nurse. Organizational leadership and operational changes emphasizing nurse rounding on patients will be needed to achieve more effective patient-care management, and improved patient satisfaction and safety [1].

The Finished Product

Grant Applications

- Follow the instructions!
- Avoid:
  - Information overload
  - Dissertation-style summaries
- ONLY present the information needed to fulfill the requirements
The Finished Product

- Literature Review
  - Key concepts & findings
  - Synthesized summary statement
- References
- Supplemental Document:
  - Literature Matrix

Literature Review
Summary & Conclusions

- You are the expert!

References

- Levels of Evidence, Canadian Medical Association & Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (2001). Available at http://www.cebm.net/index
References to Consider


For more information please contact:
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http://nursingpathways.kp.org/scal/research/index.html

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