

Improving nursing utilisation of evidence to inform clinical practice: A New Zealand case study

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Kia ora!

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Overview

- The level of access to and use of evidence to inform practice varies widely across the nursing sector in New Zealand.
- In 2011 The Midland district health boards (DHBs), led a Ministry of Health funded project with a focus on strengthening the connection between evidence and nursing practice using electronic approaches.

The Project

The e-approaches used had to

1. Use of internationally recognised evidence-based procedures and
2. Acknowledge the unique requirements of the Midland region.
 - Five different health boards
 - Urban (largest city 140,000) – rural (Towns of less than 1000),
 - Pakeha (European, South Africa, North America) – Maori (Multiple Iwi) and Pacifica Peoples (Tokoroa).

Gap Analysis

The project began with a gap analysis comparing the policy portfolio held by Waikato District Health Board with two international, peer-assessed, online procedure manuals:

1. The Royal Marsden Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures and
2. Lippincott's Nursing Procedures and Skills Manual.

Lippincott

- <http://www.lwwnursingsolutions.com/LNPSsample>

Findings 1

- Over 80 per cent of Lippincott's Nursing Procedures and Skills Manual correlated with the Waikato DHB policy portfolio
- The reviewers also indicated Lippincott's Nursing Procedures and Skills Manual used the most contemporary, evidence-based materials to justify the procedures.

Findings 1

A number of the procedures did not conform to a New Zealand practice arena. Specifically

- Mental health and addictions (legislation and restraint cited in the procedures differed from New Zealand)
- Midwifery care (assessment and reporting not aligned with New Zealand practices).

The Pilot

155 registered nurses and midwives from tertiary, secondary, primary care and independent providers across the five Midland DHBs were asked to critically review

- A minimum of two discipline specific procedures within the Lippincott manual
- At least one 'non-specialist' procedure.

302 procedures were examined out of a total of 920 (32.8 per cent).

Procedure Evaluation 1

A significant number of nurses and midwives recognised the value of

- a centralised procedure manual and the supporting resources in improving their practice.
- quickly and efficiently access appropriate procedures. Critical to this success was having access 'close' to where care was being provided.

Procedure Evaluation 2

- Although the procedures reviewed were clinically relevant and current, some evaluators viewed the American language style within the product negatively.
- The procedures were written to service an American model of nursing and midwifery care, which did not always match practice in New Zealand.

E-Environment Evaluation

The data indicated a significant majority

- were confident and competent in using computers
- were competent and confident in using web-based technologies to access point of care procedures
- felt the procedures reviewed were presented in a logical manner and were current and appropriate to their current level of skill
- could access the appropriate software applications to complete activities assigned

Summary

- an online procedure manual is recognised as having great value to nurses and midwives
- the e-environment created was easy to navigate for nurses and midwives
- the procedures were generally received well

However,

- cultural safety elements were not well dealt with
- ‘Americanisation’ of the language used in the procedure was frustrating