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Volume 20, Issue 3, 06 April 2010

A&S Science

Dissemination of evidence into practice: opportunities and threats

Evidence-based practice is considered central to improving health care in the community. Nicki Walsh reports on research into the perceived barriers that may impede its effective implementation in practice

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[Nicki Walsh](#) University of Nottingham
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This article has been subject to double-blind review.

Aim To explore primary care nurses' perceptions of issues that affect the dissemination and use of evidence-based nursing practice.

Background Changes in society and the political landscape all influence healthcare service provision. These elements are complex, entwined and in a constant state of flux. Service provision therefore needs to be flexible and adaptable to accommodate these changes. Maintenance and enhancement of knowledge is the cornerstone of any service development and this article explores the impact this requirement has on the daily clinical practice of nurses in a community setting.

Method A mixed methodology has been adopted using a questionnaire and semi-structured interviews. A postal questionnaire was used to explore the views of all community nurses in one primary care trust. This was supported with semi-structured interviews of four voluntary team leaders, following an open postal invitation.

Findings Results reveal consistency in the identification of issues that affect the implementation and use of evidence in the practice setting. Workload pressures attributed to organisational change, and service delivery challenges created barriers to effective evidence-based practice.

Conclusion Evidence-based practice is seen as fundamental in the provision of high quality care. All nurses and healthcare providers need to ensure that this is central to their care delivery. This may mean a review of organisational procedures alongside working practices.

Keywords

Evidence-based practice, district nursing, quality of care, art of nursing

Author notes

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