

Wisconsin Students Secure Scientific Evidence for Nursing Practice in Alaska

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Abstract

A partnership for clinical learning has been previously established through Wisconsin nursing students traveling to learn with staff at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC). The project described here builds on the partnership by having students communicate via phone and e-mail with ANMC staff members. Staff identify topics and students obtain important scientific literature for evidence-based practice. This application research study involves a diverse research team including nursing and non-nursing majors of different ages, educational levels, cultures and genders. The team works together to provide information and to communicate regularly with the ANMC staff.

Purpose

- ♦ Create a collaboration between Wisconsin nursing students and ANMC staff
- ♦ Obtain scientific evidence for practice
- ♦ Learn about Alaskan culture through working with a diverse team of students and staff



University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Nursing Building

Rural Stroke Project

- ♦ The goal is to develop an evidence-based interdisciplinary protocol for stroke patients being discharged to rural communities in Alaska.
- ♦ The student objective is to find stroke-related literature and to write research abstracts.

Carlsson, A. & Britton, M. (1993). Blood pressure after stroke: A one-year follow-up study. *Stroke*, 24(2), 195-199.

Journal Club Project

- ♦ The goal is to keep ANMC staff up-to-date on evidence-based practice through online continuing education.
- ♦ The student objective is to find useful articles and compile post-tests based on the literature.

Madsen, D., Sebolt, T., Cullen, L., Folkedahl, B., Mueller, T., Richardson, C., & Titer, M. (2005). Listening to bowel sounds: An evidence-based practice project. *American Journal of Nursing*, 105(12), 40-49.

End of Life/Palliative Project

- ♦ The goal is to develop a meaningful end of life/palliative care program that addresses treatment of mind, body and spirit for patients at ANMC.
- ♦ The student objective is to find literature on palliative care/chaplaincy programs within hospitals to begin to assess the relevancy for the Alaska Native population.

Bellandi, D. (2000). A prayerful experience. *Modern Healthcare*, 30(30), 14-17.

Fassbender, K., Fainsinger, R., Brenneis, C., Brown, P., Braun, T., & Jacobs, P. (2005). Utilization and costs of the introduction of system-wide palliative care in Alberta, 1993-2000. *Palliative Medicine*, 19, 513-520.



The Alaska Native Heritage Center, Anchorage Alaska

Evaluation

Evaluation includes a Research Team Participation Tool and a Research Team Staff Collaborator Tool. Both of these tools will be administered and analyzed in May, 2007. The following is an example of one of the tools used:

Research Team Staff Collaborator Tool

1. What, if anything, did you learn about evidence-based practice?
2. What thoughts/feelings describe your involvement in the research group?
3. Did you find the communication process with the students useful? Please elaborate.
4. Where your outcome expectations for the project met? Please elaborate.
5. Please add any other comments.

Future Plans

- ♦ Explore possible funding sources for continuing collaborative work with ANMC staff
- ♦ Publish findings from the project in a nursing education journal

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