

Virtual Journal Club (VJC) Connects Evidence to Practice

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ABSTRACT

Advancing evidence-based practice in hospitals can be a challenge. To address this issue, a VJC was developed using available intranet technology. Research manuscripts are posted along with professional critiques and discussion questions. Comments from nurse VJC participants are reviewed by the hospital's nursing research council and analyzed for practice implications. Recommendations for practice change derived from the analysis are forwarded to the appropriate decision-making body for consideration. This process closes the loop ensuring that the VJC not only exposes the nursing staff to scientific evidence to support their practice but also may lead to institutional policy changes which are based on best practice evidence in literature.

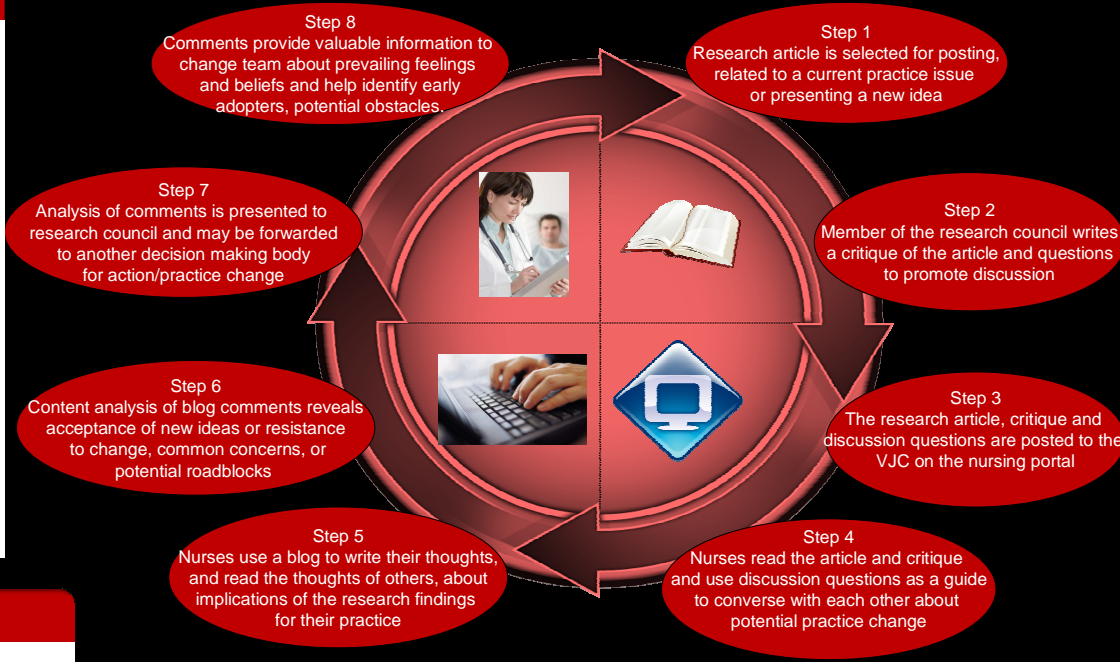
RESULTS

RQ1: Content analysis suggested that participants used the forum to reflect on the research topic, incorporate their experience and express their thoughts.
 RQ2: Findings indicated that nurses express their opinions and feelings, both positive and negative, regarding the research topic, thus informing leaders and change agents of potential problems or obstacles to successful implementation in advance.
 RQ3: Future research opportunities were rarely identified. However, nurses more readily provided suggestions for practice changes such as improving depression screening among children and adolescents, identifying a key person to attend to parents during resuscitation, and teaching parents about hospital routines and how to assist with care.

Articles	Days Posted N=3385	Participant Comments N=245
Verbal abuse	540	45
Preoperative anxiety and post-op pain	690	44
Patterns of depressive symptoms	600	26
Parental involvement in care	380	25
Facilitated tucking	335	25
Family presence during resuscitation	450	38
Hourly rounding	390	42
Average/Standard Deviation	484±130	35±9

CONCLUSION

The VJC has become an effective tool for introducing or facilitating practice change. It can be used to educate nurses about current best practice or impending practice change by providing the "why" behind the "what". Nurse leaders and educators can maximize the usefulness of a VJC by purposefully selecting articles related to current practice or impending change, encouraging participation by many nurses from a variety of areas, and analyzing the content of blog comments to inform decision making and planning for change. Nurse Executives at this Magnet® designated hospital have been very supportive of the VJC as a tool for advancing evidence based practice and helping nurses access current nursing research literature and as a resource to meet several requirements for Magnet® designation. It provides a structure and process to evaluate existing nursing practice and can provide a mechanism to develop, expand and advance nursing research.



PURPOSE

The purpose of this evaluation project was to explore the comments of pediatric nurses who participated in the VJC regarding applicability of research findings to clinical practice and how the VJC could be used to make changes in nursing practice.

There were 3 research questions:

1. How may participant comments inform leadership about nurse perceptions of existing practice issues?
2. How may participant comments foretell nurses' responses to impending change?
3. How may participant comments provide direction for future nursing research or changes in nursing practice?

METHODS

Content analysis was used to develop patterned regularities in VJC participant responses. It was believed that use of this analysis technique would support the emergence of participants' thoughts into patterns which would then provide insight into the effectiveness of the VJC as a tool to connect research evidence to practice change. See diagram above of the 8-step process. The 7 articles studied included:

- Verbal abuse: a problem for pediatric nurses
- Nurses' perceptions of parental involvement in hospital care
- Preoperative anxiety, postoperative pain, and behavioral recovery in young children undergoing surgery
- Patterns of depressive symptoms in children
- Circle of excellence: Does regular rounding by nursing associates boost patient satisfaction?
- Facilitated tucking by parents in pain management of preterm infants – a randomized crossover trial
- Nurses' beliefs about family presence during resuscitation