Research Utilization by Staff Nurses in Acute Care Settings

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Background
Research utilization in nursing practice has brought dramatic improvements in patient outcomes and is considered one of the pillars of evidence-based practice (EBP). Research in nursing practice is utilized in generating evidence-based practice to influence policies and procedures, and to have an effect on individual, organizational, regional, and international attitude and culture. Research includes scientific based research, as well as broad based general knowledge research, with the goal of using best evidence in the provision of patient care in the health care system.

Methods
To ascertain how often staff nurses apply research findings in their practice, and what factors enhance or obstruct the process. The methodology design employed was an exploratory, descriptive sample survey. A five point Likert scale was used with a value of one point being equivalent to “strongly disagree,” a value of five points being equivalent to “strongly agree,” and a value of three points being neutral. The questions determined the type of knowledge that participants rely on during the decision making process in their nursing practice. Items addressed included the participants opinion of the theoretical importance of research in one’s daily nursing practice. The survey also addressed the ease of use and implementation of research. Additionally, the survey addressed the organization’s support in using research findings and whether the organization need to improve research utilization.

Participants
The participants were registered nurses from a Medical Surgical floor in a Western regional, mid-sized hospital in the United States. Participation was encouraged by the use of anonymous data collection.

Target Audience
Nurses of all levels, nursing students, staff managers, administrators, and educators. The intended audience encompasses clinical, administrative, and academic disciplines across local, regional, and international settings.

Survey Questions
1. Utilization of research in the nursing profession is one of the pillars of evidence-based practice.
2. Research in both nursing and evidence-based practice, influences organizational policies and procedures.
3. Evidence-based practice influences individual, organizational, regional, and international attitudes and cultures.
4. Research includes a combination of scientific-based research, and broad-based knowledge.
5. The goal of research is to utilize best evidence in the provision of patient care, and improves patient outcomes.
6. My organization supports the use of research findings.
7. My organization often implements research findings into our nursing practice.
8. Research and evidence-based practice are easy to access in my organization.
9. Researching in my daily nursing practice is user friendly, and easy to implement.
10. My organization does not need to improve research utilization.

Results
Nurses relied mostly on hospital policy and procedures, research studies, and suggestions from peers, rather than research findings. The obstacles reported were lack of time, staff support, lack of time, and resources. The sample's general attitude toward research utilization and evidence-based practice was positive. There was an expectation for more guidance from the management level.

Conclusion
The results of the studies were similar to other analogue researches. In order to improve research utilization by staff nurses, more assistance and educational support is needed. Nurses with Master's or Doctoral degrees could be promoted as EBP coaches, as well as staffing one or two librarians in hospitals.

Key Words
Registered Nurses, nursing research, evidence-based practice, research utilization

References

Figures
![Survey Results](https://example.com/survey_results.png)