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Chapter 2: Evidence-Based Nursing Practice LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1. Summarize the importance of evidence-based practice in the field of nursing
- 2. Differentiate between research utilization and evidence-based nursing practice
- 3. Discuss the importance of the Cochrane Collaboration and the Cochrane Nursing Care Field to evidence-based practice
- 4. Explain the role of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in evidence-based practice
- 5. Summarize the roles of evidence-based nursing practice centers.

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Nurses are an integral part of healthcare and encouraged to use new forms of evidence, new interprofessional team efforts, and new fields of science to complement their evidence-based practice.
- 2. Research utilization is a more narrow term than evidence-based nursing practice. Research utilization involves the use of results from specific research studies that concentrate on one clinical problem. Knowledge is accumulated over time and works its way into practice. Evidence-based nursing practice is broader in scope. Whereas nursing research utilization begins with existing research that needs to be implemented in practice, evidence-based nursing practice begins with a clinical problem for which there is no immediate apparent solution. Nurses then seek to find information about the best solution for this specific problem.
- 3. The Cochrane Collaboration is an international nonprofit organization supporting evidence-based practice by preparing systematic reviews of healthcare interventions, known as the *Cochrane Reviews*. A systematic review is a rigorous

scientific approach that combines results from a group of research studies and looks at the studies as a whole to summarize them, while focusing on a single area

- of interest. There are 52 Cochrane Review Groups, each focusing on a specific topic area.
- 4. The Cochrane Library is the medium used to publish the work of the Cochrane Collaboration. It consists of six databases that contain evidence to promote decision making in healthcare. A seventh database provides information about the groups in the Cochrane Collaboration.
- 5. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews includes *Cochrane Reviews* based on the best available information about healthcare interventions. These reviews provide evidence for and against the effectiveness and appropriateness of treatments, which include medications, surgery, and educational programs.
- 6. Cochrane Centers are located through the world and all share the responsibility for helping coordinate and support the Cochrane Collaboration. Each center is unique and reflects the interests of the individuals associated with that particular center.
- 7. The Cochrane Nursing Care Field (CNCF) has a mission to improve healththrough (a) increasing the use of the Cochrane Library by nurses and others; (b) engaging nurses and others involved in delivering, leading, or researching nursingcare with the Cochrane Collaboration; and (c) supporting the CochraneCollaboration and its role in providing an evidence base for nursing care. Membership is open to consumers of nursing care, nurses, formal and informal caregivers, other healthcare professionals, researchers, and others involved in the delivery of nursing care.
- 8. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is the health services research branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The AHRQ serves as a major source of funding and technical assistance for health services research and training. The agency works with public and private organizations to build a knowledge base for healthcare.
- 9. Evidence-based practice centers (EPCs) develop evidence reports and technology assessments on topics related to clinical, social and behavioral science, economics, and other healthcare organization and delivery issues. Topics for consideration are nominated by professional societies, insurers, employers, and patient groups. Their goal is to improve the quality, effectiveness, and appropriateness of health care delivery in the United States.
- 10. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) is the leading independent panel of private-sector experts in the area of primary care and preventive services. The USPSTF conducts systematic reviews on clinical preventative services and the results of their reviews are used in making sets of recommendations for use in primary care settings. The USPSTF then reviews the evidence and determines the benefits and harms for each preventive service by a grading system.
- 11. The National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC) is a database of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and related guidelines. It publishes practice guidelines.

12. Evidence-based practice centers in nursing include Academic Center for Evidence Based Nursing, Sarah Cole Hirsch Institute for Best Nursing Practices Based on Evidence, and the Joanna Briggs Institute.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- 1. Develop a visual diagram of the various AHRQ agencies and their responsibilities. (LO1)
- 2. Divide the class into two groups and ask them to visit Web sites for AHRQ and the National Guideline Clearinghouse. Ask the groups to report on the information they find at these two sites. (LO4)
- 3. Develop practical examples for the use of research utilization and for the use of evidence-based practice. (LO1)
- 4. Discuss and identify which nonresearch sources of evidence the class considers to be the most relevant. (LO1)
- 5. Divide the class into three groups. Assign one of the Web sites to the groups (Joanna Briggs, Sarah Cole, etc.). Ask the groups to review the site and report on its location, goals, and so on. (LO3)
- 6. Assign a library activity to members of the class. Give students selected assignments from the journals listed in this chapter. Ask them to visit the library (hope the journals are there), have them review the journals, and report back to the group on the types and usefulness of the articles they find. (LO2)
- 7. During a classroom discussion, have the students prepare a power point presentation focusing on the roles of evidence-based nursing practice centers. Post the power point presentation to the learning management system. (LO5)