The Role of the Occupational Health Nurse in EBP & Research

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What shape are you?



Questions we are going to try to answer

- How useful is the occupational health evidence base in practice?
- What should be the evidence base for occupational health interventions?
- What, in the context of occupational health, should even constitute "evidence"?
- What sort of evidence base should occupational health nurses be desiring to do their jobs more effectively?

INTENT

The concept of evidence-based practice (EBP) (Sackett et al. 1996) was introduced to health care as a means of linking research findings and clinical practice (Andermann et al. 2016; Powell et al. 2015)

Clinical Practice

Evidence-Based Practice

Research Findings

Why do you do what you do each day?????

What information do you base your nursing care on?

" The goal of EBP is to change practice – to locate the best evidence and put it into practice." <u>RN.com EBP CE</u> "Most nurses practice according to what they learned in nursing school, their experience, and what colleagues share in the clinical setting."

> Estabrooks, 1998; 2003 & Pravikoff 2005

Common Drivers How Patient Care is Practiced...

- *Ritual*...accepted practices versus research proven practices...The "that's the way we've always done it" syndrome.
- Tradition...the way I learned how to do it.
- Personal opinion... without assessment of underlying assumptions.

Arrogance...I have to be right syndrome.

> Lack of concern... for patients values'.



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Chest tube stripping

The Need for EBP

"EBP is essential to transform healthcare by providing proven effective treatments. At present there is a gap between theory and practice that results in diminished patient care, inefficient practice, and an excessive time lag between the discovery of knowledge and its incorporation into clinical practice." (Salmond 2007) p.460 'Knowledge translation' ~ 17 years



Daniel's Faithfulness

8But Daniel resolved in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's food or wine. So he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself.

9Now God had granted Daniel favor and compassion from the chief official, 10but he said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking thinner than those of the other young men your age? You would endanger my head before the king."

11Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief official had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12**"Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given only vegetables to eat and** water to drink. 13Then compare our appearances with those of the young men who are eating the royal food, and deal with your servants according to what you see."

14So he consented to this and tested them for ten days. 15**And at the end of ten days, their** appearance was better and healthier than all the young men who were eating the king's food. 16Thus the steward continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink, and he gave them vegetables instead.



James Lind



- Born Edinburgh 1716
- On HMS Salisbury in 1747 he allocated 12 men with scurvy
 - Cider
 - Seawater
 - Horseradish, mustard, garlic
 - Nutmeg
 - Elixir Vitriol
 - Oranges and Limes



1747 Where it all began...



May 20, 1747 - Scottish physician James Lind conducted the first clinical study of the treatment of scurvy on 12 sailors.



Lind discovered that of six therapies, oranges and lemons had the greatest positive effect on the sailors' health.

Historical aspects of evidence-based practice

 Harvie (2002) describes how Lind, a young naval surgeon's assistant, conducted the first modern controlled clinical trial in 1747 in a quest to discover the cause of scurvy, a condition caused by a nutritional deficiency of vitamin C, that killed many sailors and passengers on long voyages in the seventeen hundreds



In 1747 Lind conducted the trial on 12 men with scurvy where one group (n=2) received 2 oranges and 1 lemon a day. These two men made a good recovery, whereas the others who were given non-citrus treatments, including sea water, consequently did not recover. Despite the evidence, it was to be another 48 years before the British admiralty began to issue lemon juice to naval seamen for the prevention of scurvy.



FIGURE 18.2 The population-intervention-comparison-outcome format for evidence-based queries complements the plan-do-check-act cycle of quality management and can enhance improvement initiatives.

What is UNIQUE about Occupational Health Nursing?

- Occupational health service delivery is more multidisciplinary than
- other specialties.
- In addition, the primary focus of this specialty is risk prevention and health promotion, rather than diagnosis and treatment.

Professional Focus of OHN

- Although there are similarities between OHS and other health care disciplines, the clinical questions and professional focus of the OHS mainly concern
 - work environment risks and the
 - protection and promotion of workers' health rather than the treatment of disease.
- The aim of the OHS is to prevent work-related illness and protect and promote workers' health and work ability (Heselmans et al. 2010; Kwak et al. 2014).

The Role of RESEARCH

- Research contributes to the
 - development of the care provided,
 - development of interventions and treatments and
 - understanding the experience of those receiving and providing healthcare (Griffiths, 2010).

REALITY

• But the reality is that most OH nurses do not have the time or, just as importantly, the funding to carry out much in the way of research









Start \$mall

start small but start



Think big. Start small. Move fast.

"DREAM BIG. Start Small. Act Now."

Robin Sharma

robinsharma.com

Success is the sum of small efforts – repeated day in and day out.



Robert Collier www.geckoandfly.com

Some Ideas for EBP and Research

- Does pre-employment health screening work?
- What can occupational health nurses do to help people with common health problems to start work or return to work?
- What is the best way to change behavior?





Dream **big**. Start **small**. But most of all, **start**.

- Simon Sinek







Make a girl laugh with questions like

So, do you think fish get thirsty?

Buzzle.com


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DoiNg

THE **GREATEST GAP** IN THE WORLD IS THE GAP BETWEEN **KNOWING AND** DOING

-John Maxwell

Knowing How Is Not The Problem...

- Like losing weight, our problem is not with knowing HOW. When we really want to, we figure out how and learn by doing.
- Our problem is with being COMMITTED enough to DO what it takes every day, and do it PERMANENTLY, not just in short bursts of inspired energy.

What are examples of knowing and not doing?

- Tolerating misaligned employees
- Keeping inefficient systems
- Failing to delight your "customers"

What are the most costly issues for employers?

- The most costly health issues for employers are smoking, hypertension, and sedentary behavior, all of which are associated with the leading causes of death (Redmond & Kalina, 2009).
- Well-designed workplace health promotion programs that address these behaviors and maintain healthy workers' safety can save the company up to three times the cost of the program (O'Donnell, 2010).
- In addition, the indirect cost of presenteeism, or less-than-optimal job performance due to chronic health problems, can be reduced (Redmond & Kalina, 2009).
- The Task Force on Community Preventive Services recommends workplace programs to improve diet and physical activity based on strong evidence of their effectiveness in controlling weight (Guide to Community Preventive Services, 2013).

SMOKING

HYPERTENSION

SEDENTARY BEHAVIOR

Workplace Health Promotion Programs

 Strong evidence demonstrates that workplace health promotion programs achieve both financial and health benefits (Baicker, Cutler, & Song, 2010).

- Strong evidence demonstrates that workplace health
- promotion programs achieve both financial and health
- benefits (Baicker, Cutler, & Song, 2010). Several evi

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- dence-based theories and methods can be effectively used
- by occupational health nurses in designing health promo

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• tion programs for both individuals and groups. These the

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- ory-based strategies include the Transtheoretical Model,
- self-efficacy, and motivational interviewing. The effec-
- tiveness of programs is enhanced by using a structured

Not SURE of the strategies

 Although occupational health nurses are aware that unhealthy lifestyle behaviors are modifiable, they may be unsure of the strategies needed to design effective worksite health promotion programs.

The "new" meaning of WELLNESS

 Wellness can be defined as "an active process through which people become aware of, and make choices toward, a more successful existence" (National Wellness Institute, n.d.).

The NEW concept of WELLNESS

- However, the concept of wellness is broader, and includes attaining an individual's "personal best," even in disease states or with physical or mental disability.
- This conceptualization of wellness includes six interrelated dimensions:
 - physical,
 - social,
 - intellectual,
 - spiritual,
 - emotional, and
 - occupational (National Wellness Institute, n.d.).
- Achieving balance among the six dimensions is an essential step in moving toward the goal of wellness.

The FOCUS is HEALTH PROMOTION

- Health promotion was clearly defined by O'Donnell (2002) as "the science and art of helping people change their lifestyle to move toward a state of optimal health."
- This straightforward definition should resonate with nurses, who understand nursing as a helping profession that is both a science and an art.
- Many theories and strategies guide nurses in assisting clients as they change lifestyle behaviors.
- What is "best practice" or "evidence-based practice" that ALL OHNs must employ?

MULTIPLIER THINKING

- Urgency: How SOON does it matter?
- Importance: How MUCH does it matter?
- Significance: How LONG does it matter?

HOW LONG WILL IT MATTER?



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EBP and Health Promotion

- Evidence-based practice reduces wide practice variations by synthesizing relevant literature, standards (international, national, and local), cost analyses, clinical expertise, and client preferences (Pender, Murdaugh, & Parsons, 2011).
- The fact that evidence-based practice extends beyond relevant literature to include **client preferences** is a significant aspect of health-promotion practice.

What strategy can be used to change behavior? Self -efficacy

- Most closely associated with social cognitive theory (Bandura, 1986), which focuses on the psychology and social aspects of behavior.
- Social cognitive theory is based on the belief that humans do not live in isolation; they are always learning and behaving in response to their environments and individual thought processes.
- These environments may include the workplace or the larger society (Bandura, 2004).
- Individuals are not simply products of their environments, but create those environments, a concept known as reciprocal determinism (Bandura, 2004).

Negative Self-Efficacy

- People must believe they have the power to stop negative behaviors (e.g., smoking) and adopt positive behaviors (e.g., regular exercise).
- Nurses assist employees to increase their self-efficacy by
 - planning mastery experiences,
 - modeling healthy behaviors, and
 - encouraging significant others to support the employee.
- Self-efficacy was a significant determinant of healthpromoting behavior in 86% of the studies they reviewed (Pender, Bar-Or, Wilk, & Mitchell,2002).

Motivational Interviewing builds self-efficacy.

- Client-centered therapeutic approach to enhancing readiness for change by supporting clients while they explore and resolve ambivalence (Hettema, Steele, & Miller, 2005).
- Individuals identify the behavior they intend to change and how they might begin the behavior change process.
- Nurse facilitates the process by asking open-ended and clarifying questions to assist individuals to articulate steps they will take to begin the process of behavior change.
- Motivational interviewing prioritizes small, incremental steps to assist individuals making a successful change.

Steps (Is the client ready to change?)

1. Are you interested in quitting smoking? (If no, then use "precontemplation" strategies).

2. Are you thinking about quitting smoking soon? (contemplation).

3. Are you ready to plan how you will quit smoking? (preparation).

4. Are you in the process of quitting smoking? (action).

5. Are you trying to stay smoke-free after quitting? (maintenance).

FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS



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