

Clinical Nurses Experience with being on a Clinical Research Team

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Background Information: Completing clinical research is a time intensive endeavor requiring specialized training and skills. Average time for research evidence to reach clinical practice is 17 years.¹⁻⁴ This lag truly highlights the divide between clinical world and the research world. The American Credentialing Center recognizes clinical nurses' ability to participate in research through Magnet designation for hospitals that demonstrate nurse led research.

Objectives of Project: A clinical research project led by a seasoned researcher invited key clinical staff to participate as co-investigators in the project, bridging the gap between the clinical and research worlds.

Process of Implementation: Clinical nurses and advance practice nurses were identified in areas that research subjects would be seen in for study visits. Pre-operative clinic (Shannon Brooks), spine clinic (Christy Loyd), pre-op holding room (Wuraola Adesinasi) and the post-op spine unit (Clayton Freeman). Nurses were trained on good clinical practice and study procedures for their area and study visit.

Statement of Successful Practice: Clinical nurses were very successful in completing the study related procedures in their areas. Enrollment for the project increased and deviations from the protocol decreased with the additions of these nurses. These nurses gave valuable feedback to the investigator resulting in a more streamlined through put of the subjects and process. One of the perianesthesia nurses statement regarding this experience: "The collaboration among seasoned research nurses and clinical nurses during the inquiry of new nursing knowledge builds teams that are strong and cohesive. The experience is rewarding as we all continuously grow in this process, nursing research."

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Clinical nurse involvement in clinical research projects is feasible, resulting in increased understanding of the research process and collaboration between researcher and clinical staff. It is paramount that study related procedures are imbedded within the job function of the clinical nurse. Including these peri anesthesia nurses early, during study design, can result in vast improvements in study related procedures as these nurses understand the patients journey towards wellness better than anyone.

References:

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