**Research Nursing is Patient Focused**

This pie chart illustrates how research nurses spend their time across all their research activities. Patient-facing activities are in shades of blue. This enables colleagues to appreciate the clinical nature of research nursing. Research nurses are involved in the identification, recruitment and follow-up of patients in a research study. Monitoring them throughout their research journey, detecting and documenting adverse events to ensure patient safety is maintained, and, at the conclusion of a study, ensuring a smooth transition back to clinical care.

**Research Nurses Manage Competing Demands**

Many research nursing teams deliver a portfolio of studies with a very different remit. Illustrating the support each study receives from the team allows them to evaluate their capacity to take on new studies; it identifies how much time will be released when an existing study ends. It is possible to estimate the time a new study might require if it is similar to one that is currently supported.

**Research Nurses Develop a Wide Range of Skills and Experience**

The BRIS TOOL illustrates the activities undertaken by research nurses and the amount of time that each requires. Combining the data from research nurses across many teams allows a role profile to be built for each post. This example of a Band 7 profile illustrates the breadth of work a research nurse undertakes and thus the range of skills and experience the post both offers and requires.

**Rationale**

Research nurses undertake a vast range of duties from the development of study proposals, applications for funding, submissions for approvals, recruiting patients, delivering the research, caring for the patients, collecting data, writing reports, ensuring safety and archiving all documents. However, productivity, or effectiveness, is measured by the number of people recruited to a study and whether this is achieved on time and to target.

Recruitment is just one element of research nursing; there is so much more required from the nurse and a breadth of experience that can be developed.

It is imperative that defining clinical research nursing should be evidence based rather than anecdotal.

**Method**

95 clinical research staff from University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust completed the BRIS TOOL (Tacchi 2017) over a 4 week period. The tool used a standardised set of activity descriptors and listed the studies being delivered.

The data gathered was analysed to produce illustrations of the activities undertaken by each staff group; build profiles of roles and posts; and highlight the combination of activities required to deliver individual research studies.

**Results**

The BRIS TOOL supports the determination of skill mix for a research team; it can also be used to demonstrate that:

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**Discussion**

The BRIS TOOL provides evidence about the complexity of research nursing and helps to define research roles. It enables a better understanding of the research nurse role, illustrating that it is so much more than patient recruitment: the standard measure of productivity.

**Conclusion**

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**Reference**


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**Results**

The BRIS TOOL supports the determination of skill mix for a research team; it can also be used to demonstrate that:

- Research offers opportunities for staff to develop a wide range of skills and experience
- Research teams manage competing demands
- Research nursing is patient focussed
- Clinical research nurses have the potential to better inform study design

**Conclusion**

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