Developing research knowledge and capability in undergraduate nurses: a pilot research elective

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Presentation aim

- Background
- Aims and objectives of the project
- Method
- Results
- What’s next?
Background: Nurse education

Registered nurse workforce

- Research Knowledge & Skills
- Critical thinking
- Autonomous working
- Leadership
Aim & Objectives

Aim:
To provide a unique opportunity to gain experience, knowledge and skills in research, audit / service improvement conduct.

Objectives:
• Actively participate
• Gain knowledge and skills
• Literature searching
• Communication skills
• Presentation skills
Method

- Second-year nursing students approached (n=113)
- All fields of practice
- Four-week research elective (July-August 2017)
- Projects ‘sought out’
- Supervision: multi-disciplinary
- Projects registered audit / service improvement
- Individualised plan
- Evaluation: anonymised electronic survey students
- Data analysis: descriptive statistics & thematic analysis
Method

Hydration Care Bundle Validation

Endotracheal Tube (ETT) Fixation

Pain and Sedation Audit

Vascular Access Audit
Pre-placement

- Scared
- Enthusiastic
- Determined
- Unsure
- Apprehensive
- Optimistic

Q: What 3 words summarise how you feel as you start the placement?

Curious
‘Typical day’

08.00: Meet with supervisor

08.30: Develop data collection tool
    Pilot / refining
    Audit
    Observations of care
    Data analysis
    Developing recommendations
    Literature searches

16.00: Finish
Results: Impact on students

- Personal impact
  - Organisational skills
  - Time management
  - Communication with staff
  - Communication with patients & families
  - Confidence

“It has pushed me to achieve more than I ever thought I could. So I will always push myself now”
Results: Impact on students

- Research knowledge
- Clinical insight
- Ability to work autonomously
- Enthusiasm for clinical improvement
- IT skills
- Abstract writing/conference presentation
Results: Impact on organisation

- Set the Trust objectives
- Identified further audit / research
- Positive experience for supervisors
- Senior Manager: valued skills of future workforce

“During all of their presentations the standard and quality of the student nurses’ work was outstanding. This core group of student nurses are truly inspiring and will be a credit to our profession. PICU would be happy to welcome more students in 2018 to help inform improvements to patient care and management.” (Clinical Lead Nurse, PICU)
Results: dissemination
Recommendations & future work

- Projects: develop & grow
- On-going evaluation: Cohort 2017
- Cohort 2018 in progress
- Cohesion with academic requirements
- Dissemination: regional practice placements
- Dissemination: HEI
Limitations

• Pilot project: only 6 students
• One HEI provider
• ‘Elective’
• No funding
Conclusions

The pilot research elective enabled nursing students to undertake high-quality, clinically-focused audits and service improvement projects.

Future plans include expanding the elective within UoB and across HEIs. Sustainability to be addressed by practice placement and HEI areas.
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Any questions?

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