Evidence Based Practice

Assignment 2

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Value and Submission

- Worth – 40%
- Length - 1500 words +- 10% (put word count on title page)
- Submission – Turnitin
- Due date: Depends on your rotation

As an evidence of your clinical placement dates, you must attach a scanned copy of your NCAS (Nursing Competency Assessment Schedule) as an appendix to your assignment.
Assessment Task

- **Apply feedback** from Assignment One to defining your problem/rationale and question
- **Shape (sharpen/ modify)** your guiding/ clinical (answerable) question if needed;
- **Then complete the rest of the steps of the EBP process** (focus of the assignment is on applying the EBP process not an essay on theory of EBP or the issue chosen).
- **Locate the evidence and document your process**
- **Appraise it**
- **Summary of recommendations (best practice) to answer question**
Possible headings

• Introduction
• Problem and answerable question
• Locating the evidence
• Appraising the evidence
• Summary of best practice
• Conclusion
• References
Introduction

• Introduce topic – EBP
• Context/significance to nursing (definition/context will likely be referenced)
• Purpose - tie in case study – EBP will be applied to the case study
• Structure – briefly outline the steps of the process
Problem and question

• Review feedback from Assignment 1
• Have you identified a problem and explained why is it important to address?
• (give some brief detail of case study but do not retell the case study)- Use the given details in the case study to justify the problem.
• Have you got a clear question written in question format?
• Refine/edit down Assignment 1 – make good use of word count as you have a lot of steps to cover
Locating the evidence

• In this section, explain/document your search strategy/your process to finding the evidence/best practice for your question
• Thread the process through your essay and reference where needed
• What is the strategy/plan for your search?
• Key concepts/word combinations etc.
• You can use WorldSearch or Google Scholar to get an overview and help find key words but you must use the nursing databases - at least 2/3 databases (e.g. Cinahl, Medline, Joanna Briggs)
Locating the evidence

• Indicate how you have refined your search Limits (peer reviewed, date range, language, etc.)
• Include a Literature search table in the body of your assignment (Label it and refer to it in your narrative - The literature search results are shown in Table 1)
What education should the patient requiring crutches for a dislocated knee receive?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search topic/ restriction</th>
<th>Hits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dislocated knee</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-ligament-damaged knee</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-ligament-damaged knee AND crutches</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-ligament-damaged knee AND crutches AND education</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limit to 2010-2017</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limit to peer-reviewed</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limit to English language</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Locating the evidence

• Review the Unit PowerPoint on Assignment 2 and Library PowerPoint:

(There are good videos on this link on how to plan your search and use the databases)

• Skim/scan search results for key words/relevance. At this stage you will not read in depth every article.
• Explain how you have chosen what to keep/discard.
• Refine search results to eventually get to a small pool of articles (no set number but around 5 – 8 will give you enough to appraise without going too big)
Appraise the evidence

• From the pool of articles that you have chosen:
• Critically READ, understand and appraise the evidence
• Criteria used to appraise? Concepts discussed in tutorials/modules
• Review lecture notes/EBP texts/resources given
• Give an overview/summary – not article by article
Summary of best practice

• What does the literature suggest as best practice to answer your question?
• Synthesise the key findings across the articles
• Key themes?
• Do articles make the same conclusions?
• Different findings?
How to integrate/synthesis findings

• You will give an overview of the findings from the literature/studies chosen. Look for ways to group your ideas.

  e.g. After an extensive review of current literature, there were several key findings in terms of addressing .....  

  Two of the articles recommend ..........  

  A study by Brown and Smith (year) suggested........  
  Another study by Smith (year) supported this view. Then explain...

The above are only examples to give you an idea on how to summarise and synthesise the findings. There are many phrases/transition words you can use to integrate your findings.
Integration of findings

• You can integrate the authors as part of your narrative or write complete paraphrases on the findings.
• A study by Taylor and Brooks (2013) found .... Another qualitative study had similar findings where .... (Tan, 2014)
• However, Brown and Smith (2015) suggest ..... 
• Use signal words/transitions to build your discussion. E.g. In addition, In contrast, However, etc
Conclusion

• Restate the topic
• Summarise the key points/process covered.
• What is current thinking/best practice for your question?
• Introductions are general, conclusions are more specific
• Finish with a broader statement – where to from here?
Academic writing style

• Write in third person – no “we”, “you”, “I”, “our”
• Academic writing is formal, objective, accurate
• Should be mix of your linking narrative, “academic voice” and the evidence
• Write in paragraphs with clear topic sentences
• Reference any ideas that are not your own
• Paraphrase not direct quotes
• Do a plan and write to your plan – do the assignments in “chunks”
SNM Assignment Writing Guidelines

• Make sure you format your assignment as per the SNM Assignment Writing Guidelines document.

• This document and an assignment template is available from the SNM Undergraduate Nursing and Midwifery community site. Click on link below.

Assignment template
References

• Only use scholarly, credible sources from library databases
• Majority should be peer reviewed journal articles, systematic reviews or clinical guidelines
• Cite contemporary sources not older than 7 years
• Reference any ideas that are not your own
• Obviously no need to reference your “academic voice” where you synthesise findings, your linking narrative