



Staffing on Wards

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NIHR Dissemination Centre

26 March 2019

#wardstaffing



#wardstaffing

Right evidence, better decisions

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NIHR Signal Nurses and pharmacists can prescribe as effectively as doctors

Published on 21 March 2017

Expert commentary

This review confirms what many people have long believed from practice. Nurses and pharmacists, trained as independent prescribers, produce comparable clinical outcomes to doctors, when caring for patients with long-term conditions. Now, a wider group of healthcare professionals work as independent prescribers in even more settings.


Independent prescribers, for example, are working as advanced clinical practitioners in acute and emergency practice. The challenge to researchers over the next few years is to generate further robust evidence as to the impact of these independent prescribers in the

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NIHR Signal Nurse staffing levels linked to reports of missed care in adult wards

Published on 10 July 2018

Expert commentary

This paper highlights the importance of considering appropriate nurse staffing levels and the links to outcomes provided by registered nurses. Care undone affects patient experience, mortality and morbidity rates.


In Northern Ireland, the Department of Health launched a policy on nurse staffing - Delivering Care: Nurse Staffing in Northern Ireland, 2014. The framework is based on the best evidence available including a range of recognised workforce planning tools. This approach was preferred to the simple application of an absolute number or ratio.

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NIHR Signal Training for clinical competence and resilience reduced job strain among intensive care nurses in France

Published on 5 February 2019

Expert commentary

This multi-centre French study provides valuable preliminary evidence supporting the use of a simulation-based intervention to mitigate the risks of burnout and reduce the number of nurses leaving the speciality.

This is an important area of investigation for UK healthcare, with nursing vacancies now exceeding 40,000 and it is reasonable to suppose that study findings also apply to a UK context. The addition of some qualitative data would, however, have helped explain why this intervention was successful and what components were valued most.

Early discharge hospital at home

Evidence sift of recently published studies

"I would refer to this when making decisions here and discuss with colleagues..."

Nurse manager, acute trust

"This is a thorough review of great interest to practitioners and commissioners given move towards early supported discharge from hospitals."

Physiotherapist, community trust

Rating process

"Given the current focus on DToC and red bed days, an important study to share."

Hospital manager

Scores

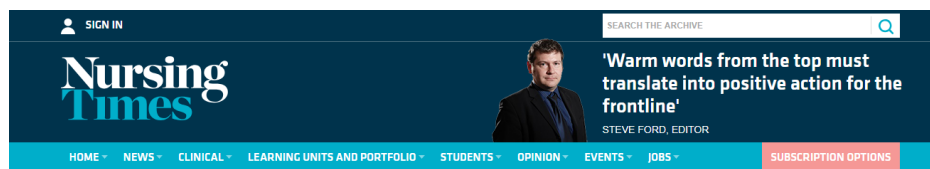
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Editorial meeting to consider quality and rater views

Right evidence, better decisions



DIABETES

NIHR SIGNAL

Diet and exercise can reduce diabetes risk

26 MARCH, 2018



COMMENT  

MOST POPULAR

MOST COMMENTED

A meta-analysis summarised by a National Institute for Health Research



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hearing for Hawking's nurse

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FEATURE

Managing transitions to palliative care for older people in acute hospitals

Elaine Maxwell Clinical adviser, The National Institute for Health Research Dissemination Centre

The fourth article in our six-part series drawing on research funded by the National Institute for Health Research and included in NIHR Dissemination Centre publications

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Dissemination Centre helps clinical staff, commissioners and patients to make informed decisions about best practice and treatment in health and social care. In our themed review, Better Endings (NIHR 2015), we look at the evidence on best practice in caring for people who are dying.

Nursing Management. 26, 1, 13-15. doi: 10.7748/nm.26.1.13.s8

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**Nursing
Times**



'Warm words from the top must
translate into positive action for the
frontline'

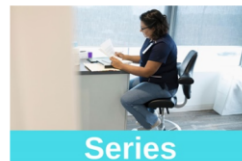
STEVE FORD, EDITOR

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Lifecycle of a research project 4: taking the research project further

11 MARCH, 2019



This article, the fourth in a series on the lifecycle of a research project, looks at the various ways in which the findings of a single study can help change practice

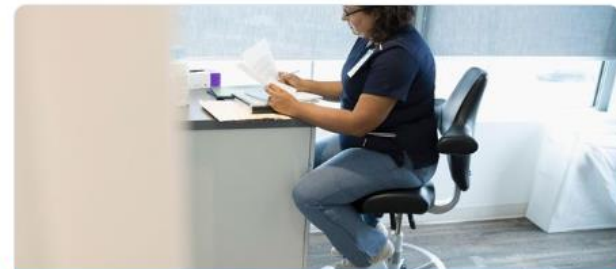


Eileen Shepherd

@eileenshepherd

Following

Part 4 in series on the life cycle of a research project [@JackieLearning](#) A study does not exist in isolation but must be viewed in context of existing knowledge, included in a wider programme of research, disseminated to the right audiences. [@NIHR_DC](#)



Lifecycle of a research project 4: taking the research project further

This article, the fourth in a series on the lifecycle of a research project, looks at the various ways in which the findings of a single study can help change practice [nursingtimes.net](#)

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Themed Review

Staffing on Wards

Making decisions about healthcare staffing,
improving effectiveness and supporting staff
to care well

March 2019
NIHR Dissemination Centre
doi 10.3310/themedreview-03553



Focus on ward staffing – why?

- Staffing costs, shortages, demands
- New roles, productivity challenges
- Gaps in evidence – NIHR commissioned research

Scope of this review

- 22 NIHR studies
- Range of methods – from largescale observational research to mixed methods evaluations
- Selected landmark studies, such as RN4Cast

Making sense of the evidence with...





Shaping the
team: size
and mix



Managing the
team and the
ward

What do we still need to know?

Many uncertainties including:

- Contribution of ward staff to positive outcomes
- Boundaries between registered and support staff
- Models accounting for wide range of staff
- Role of temporary and agency staff
- Input from carers and volunteers
- Economic evaluations
- Impact of new digital technology on ward workflow

Opportunities for new research – NIHR programmes and centres with interest in workforce and organisation

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