

N
O
T
I
S
O
P

POSITION STATEMENT

Nursing Research, Knowledge
Generation, Transfer and
Dissemination

ACEN's Position

ACEN believes that in order to advance safe, appropriate and cost-effective nursing care, nursing practice must be founded on a sound knowledge base that is developed through research and levels of evidence. Sustaining best practices in nursing and health care now and into the future depends on the generation, testing, dissemination and uptake of new knowledge, and on systems designed to support nurses to use new evidence as it emerges and to be innovative in their practice.



BACKGROUND

In order to achieve and sustain quality patient care,¹ clinical nursing practice must be informed by a process of scientific inquiry and systematic review as well as other types of evidence. Decisions about the scope of practice of the profession or allocation of nursing services and resources must also be based on evidence. Uptake of new evidence related to both clinical practice and nursing roles in the health care system must be supported by appropriate education and continual evaluation of patient, discipline and system outcomes.

There has historically been a substantial difference in the funding private industry in North America invests in research and development compared to investment made by the health care industry. It is generally accepted that R&D investment in the private business sector may be up to 15% of total expenditures. This is particularly true of technology and pharmaceutical industries. It was estimated in 2005 that governments invested only 1.82% of health care expenditures in research and development (CIHI, 2005). This investment gap must be addressed if we expect to base health care on the best evidence and create a reliable and sustainable system that meets the expectations of Canadians.

Although nursing has seen an increase in support for research and development in recent years through CHSRF and CIHR funding initiatives, the health care system is experiencing a vast information and technology explosion, a greater focus on patient safety research, and increasing patient as well as nursing discipline expectations. There is, therefore, a substantial ongoing need for investment in nursing knowledge generation, transfer and dissemination.

As an organization made up of the Senior Nursing Leaders in Canada's academic teaching facilities and healthcare services ACEN has an obligation to advocate for and facilitate strategies and processes that will support the generation and uptake of new knowledge. Through its membership, ACEN also helps to create and sustain formal linkages between senior nursing leaders, education institutions and funding agencies with the objective of supporting nursing research initiatives and the dissemination of new knowledge.

REFERENCE

Canadian Nurses Association. (2002) *Position Statement: Evidence-based Decision Making and Nursing Practice*. Ottawa: Author.

¹ A client/patient may be an individual, a family, a group or a population. Canadian Nurses Association. (2003). *Staffing Decisions for the Delivery of Safe Nursing Care*. Ottawa: Author.