Abstract

Title: The National Nurse Practitioner Research Agenda

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Date: June 15, 2011

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Purpose: Nurse practitioners (NPs) have demonstrated high quality healthcare for 45 years. As the demand for high quality and cost effective healthcare along with the visibility of NPs increases, interest is mounting from a wide-range of stakeholders for current data regarding NPs and their practice. Thus, while research has consistently supported the evolution of the role, there is a need to ensure ongoing availability of data to support and define advancement of the NP role and to identify mechanisms to support continued research. As the NP role approaches the milestone of 50 years of continuous growth and contribution to healthcare in the United States, the NP and related nursing community needs to identify research priorities for the next five years, as well as strategies to promote implementation of an agenda. This scholarly project addresses the development of a global research agenda, the barriers and challenges in accomplishing a research agenda; strategies to promote achievement of a research agenda and the role students could play in moving the agenda forward.

Data sources: (3 pages of data sources)

Impact on Practice: The research agenda will have a definitive impact on nurse practitioner practice in moving the profession forward. This agenda contributes to and strengthens the ability of NPs to meet healthcare needs and influence policy initiatives. The establishment of one global agenda developed collaboratively by multiple organizations is a means of informing researchers, policy makers, funders and other stakeholders on essential NP and healthcare research needs. The agenda will foster interdisciplinary research and engage a broad range of individuals with varied expertise in addressing the identified priorities. The agenda developed collaboratively could guide participating organizations’ research agendas, consistent with their missions and constituents’ needs and interests. The agenda will increase research dialog within the profession (AANP, 2010).

Conclusion: In conclusion, the Nurse Practitioner Research Agenda provides for the exploration of a shared research agenda and identification of priority topics in the overlapping and crosscutting areas of NP policy and regulation, NP workforce, NP practice and NP education (AANP, 2010).

The research agenda is an important starting point in the development of NP-conducted research and particularly in the development of DNP scholarly projects. DNP students can develop research skills, implementation of research projects, including reframing questions to have a quality or practice improvement focus and identifying feasible projects to measure outcomes within practice sites. DNP students represent a sizable resource through which contribution to translational and demonstration projects can be accomplished.