Nurse Executives of New Zealand Inc.
DEVELOPING NEW ZEALAND'S NURSING LEADERS

Position statement

Research and Evidence-Based Practice

The purpose of this position statement is to outline key considerations regarding Research and Evidence-based Practice in professional practice

A research culture is essential to support a safe health care environment and is the foundation for evidence-based nursing practice. Evidence-based practice is the integration of individual clinical judgement and expertise with the best available external evidence to generate the kind of practice that is most likely to lead to a positive outcome for a client or patient. In nursing practice, evidence based clinical practice takes into account the context within which care takes place; the preferences of the client; and the clinical judgement of the health professional, as well as the best available evidence and available resources.

Health practitioners value utilising methodologically sound, clinically relevant research evidence in practice and therefore need ready access to current library resources in order use current evidence in their work.

Nurses should be supported to participate in interdisciplinary research activities and share expertise to further research initiatives that:
· improve health outcomes
· have a population health focus
· develop an effective nursing resource
· are committed to the development of nursing practice

Nurse leaders need to ensure that standards of practice are evidence-based and nurses are supported to make changes in practice, based on best practice evidence

Nurse Leader Considerations
- Ensure there are processes in place that update standards and reference guides to support safe nursing practice that is based on best research evidence.
- Share new initiatives with other nurse leaders and other professionals so that practice standards are consistent and contemporary.
- Support nurses undertaking research or applying new knowledge to practice.
- Ensure that best available evidence forms the basis for decisions that impact on service outcomes.