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Published Article

Look out for the following article currently in press with:
Contemporary Nurse – Special General Practice Nursing Issue
“Time to talk, time to see: changing microeconomies of professional practice among nurses and doctors in Australian General”
C Phillips, K Dwan, C Pearce, S Hall, J Porritt, R Yates, B Sibbald

Phase 2 Practices

Participants have been working within their practices, using the participatory action research, to implement their particular change process:

The following types of change have been identified by the 7 practices.

Types of Change Sought	Examples
Improving quality of service offered to patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ PN undertakes needs assessment for uptake of EPC items in practice, and spearheads change▪ Analyse current constraints on nurse-specific clinics and develop better targeted clinics within a small business environment▪ Develop and assess uptake of out-of-hours clinic for workers
Enhancing the clinical role of the nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop in-house education in diabetes care for PN and take over diabetes assessments▪ Developing nurse-specific lists in a general practice▪ Implementing collegiate “Quick-Fix” clinics with nurse and doctor
Enhancing communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ PN to develop and implement communication forum between practice and mental health professionals to improve coordinated mental health care

Phase 2 Workshop No 2

A second, one day workshop for project participants was held on the 27 May 2007 in Melbourne.

The purpose of this event was to:

1. To familiarise participants with the work done so far in the project
2. To develop skills in evaluation
3. To enhance the understanding of participants in the potential roles of practice nurses, nationally and internationally

Part of the workshop was a plenary session on International perspectives on teamwork in general practices (UK, NZ, Aust), how the role of practice nurses has evolved over time and factors which facilitated change. The main presenter for this session was Professor Bonnie Sibbald, associate investigator to our study with a commentary on the NZ perspective by Dr Doug Baird.

Prof Sibbald’s presentation can be accessed from our website at <http://www.agpns.org>.



Professor Bonnie Sibbald
National Primary Care R&D Centre
University of Manchester
Associate -Investigator

Phase 2 Practice Locations



Conference Presentations

GP & PHC Research Conference, Sydney – July 2007:

Fairy godmothers, troopers, lion kings and larrikins: exploring archetypal relationships in the general practice team

SAPC Conference, London: *An observational study of the role of General Practice Nursing in Australia* (poster)

National Divisions Nursing in General Practice (NiGP) Forum – Coffs Harbour – August 2007: *The contribution of practice nurses to safety and quality*

RCNA Conference, Hobart – Oct 2007: *The role of the nurse in leading or facilitating change: case studies of change in Australian general practice*

AGPNS Practice Nurse Conference, Hobart – Nov 2007: *The impact of the practice nurse on quality and safety*

The above presentation can be accessed from our website at <http://www.agpns.org/>.

Evaluation Framework

An evaluation framework has been developed for this phase of the project which includes macro-level project wide data and micro-level practice / change specific data, determined by each individual practice. This framework uses an iterative, narrative approach to collect qualitative macro-level data across the seven practice projects which will enable the research team to:

- track the role of the practice nurse in the implementation of change
- identify contextual, structural and practice-level factors
- which impact upon introduction and successful implementation of change in general practice
- identify triggers to change direction within change projects
- identify different models of support by Divisions of General Practice for change in general practice, and assess their acceptability and feasibility.

Continuing education points for GPs, nurses and practice managers have been obtained through the relevant colleges awarded on completion of the project.

Upcoming Events

National Divisions Nursing in General Practice (NiGP) Forum – Coffs Harbour 28-29.8.07

RCNA Conference – Hobart 11-13.10.07

AGPN Network Forum – Hobart 15-19.11.07

Website and Blog

Please take a look at the website of the Australian General Practice Nurse Study:

<http://www.agpns.org/>

A great way to send us your feedback or comments on the project is by accessing the interactive weblog (blog) at

<http://agpns.blogspot.com/>

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