



APN CHAIR NEWS



Spring 2010

Welcome to the Advanced Practice Nursing Chair Program E-News!

Our mission is to partner with decision makers to increase Canada's capacity of nurse researchers who will conduct high quality policy relevant health services research in the field of advanced practice nursing (APN).



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Stay Tuned! Clinical Nurse Specialists and Nurse Practitioners in Canada: A Decision Support Synthesis

The Decision Support Synthesis was commissioned by Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF) and Office of Nursing Policy, Health Canada to develop a better understanding of the roles of advanced practice nurses, how they are currently being used, and the health system factors that influence their full integration in the Canadian healthcare system. Three types of advanced practice nurses were the focus of this report: clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), primary healthcare nurse practitioners (PHCNPs), and acute care nurse practitioners (ACNPs).

Based on interviews and focus groups conducted with over 80 stakeholders and a review of over 500 papers, the findings show that there is growing agreement regarding the purpose of APN roles. However, the results reveal striking differences between clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) in understanding their roles, patterns of deployment, and integration.

- NP roles in Canada have shown significant growth and improved integration through the development of legislation to support autonomous practice, an increase in the number of graduates, and the funding of new education programs.
- Conversely, there is limited provincial/territorial or national investment in supporting the development of CNS roles. This is characterized by a lack of formal CNS education programs and credentialing mechanisms; lack of title protection; and an overall decline in the current numbers of CNSs between 2003 and 2006, especially in British Columbia and Ontario.

A number of key factors essential to successful APN integration have been identified and include:

- the need to establish mechanisms to support a full scope of practice
- raising awareness of what advanced practice nurses do
- clearly defining roles
- sustaining strong administrative leadership to support the implementation of the roles.

The bottom line is that there is a growing demand for advanced practice nurses in Canada and around the world. As clinical experts, leaders and change agents, advanced practice nurses are recognized as an important human resource strategy for improving access to high quality, cost-effective and sustainable models of healthcare.

The Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership (CJNL) is hosting a special publication featuring *eleven papers* arising from this Decision Support Synthesis. Please look for this special issue in the summer 2010.

CHSRF will be publishing the full report and a list of recommendations later this spring 2010; please see http://www.chsrf.ca/home_e.php#4

Spotlight on Research

Knowledge Transfer and Exchange of Advanced Practice Nursing Research

Nancy Carter, RN, PhD, Junior Faculty for the APN Chair program was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship with CHSRF CADRE (Capacity for Applied and Developmental Research and Evaluation in Health Services Nursing) Program. The objectives of the post doctoral fellowship are to: a) develop a program of research focused on the development and evaluation of strategies for disseminating evidence about advanced practice nursing to policy-makers and health system administrators, b) develop further expertise in health services research methods, and c) develop effective partnerships with key decision-makers to inform and guide this research program.

As principal investigator for a funded study, Nancy developed and pilot tested a tool for nursing administrators to determine their information needs related to advanced practice nurses (APNs), their current sources of APN related information, and the knowledge transfer and exchange methods they prefer and require. The next step is to use the survey nationally with nursing administrators in acute care organizations, long term care and community settings.

New APN Publication

Bryant-Lukosius, D., Browne, G., **DiCenso, A.**, Whelan, T., Gafni, A., Neville, A., Sathya, J. (2010). Evaluating health-related quality of life and priority health problems in patients with prostate cancer: A strategy for defining the role of the advanced practice nurse. *Canadian Oncology Nursing Journal*, 20(1): 5-14.

APN Research Policy Briefs

- [Defining a Role for the Primary Healthcare Nurse Practitioner in Rural Nova Scotia](#)
- [Nurse Practitioner and Physician Collaboration in Ontario Long Term Care Homes](#)
- [Supportive Care Needs of Men with Advanced Prostate Cancer and their Families](#)

Top 10 Most Read Articles by Nurses on Medscape in 2009

Julie Vohra, Program Coordinator and Denise Bryant-Lukosius, Senior Scientist for the APN Chair Program co-authored one of the 10 most read articles on Medscape: "The advanced practice nursing data collection tool kit: A compendium of research tools".

For full reference see:

Vohra, J. & Bryant-Lukosius, D. (2009). The advanced practice nursing data collection tool kit: A compendium of research tools. *Topics in Advanced Practice Nursing E Journal*. October 7, 2009.

American Journal of Nursing (AJN) Book of the Year

"Assessing Outcomes of Advanced Practice Nursing" by Ruth Kleinpell PhD, RN has been named the AJN Book of the year for the category of Advanced Practice.

Check out chapter 11 *"Resources to Facilitate APN Outcomes Research"* co-authored by Denise Bryant Lukosius, Julie Vohra and Alba DiCenso.

For full reference see:

Bryant-Lukosius, D., Vohra, J., & DiCenso, A. (2009). Resources to facilitate APN outcomes research (pp. 267-286). In Kleinpell, R. (Ed.). *Outcome assessment in advanced practice nursing* (2nd ed.). NY: Springer Publishing Company.

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