

ENA's Delphi Study on National Research Priorities for Emergency Nurses in the United States

Bayley et al. (2004)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

emergency nursing

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

North America - USA

Why was it conducted at all?

The mission of ENA (Emergency Nurses Association) is "to provide visionary leadership for emergency nursing and emergency care." The Research Vision Council proposed that ENA develop a center for emergency nursing research to provide leadership and focus for scientific approaches to the many issues that concern emergency nurses and their patients.

What was the objective?

to identify and prioritize research questions with greatest value to emergency nurses and of highest importance for health care consumers

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 40 research questions

How long did the research prioritization take?

Spring 2000 - summer 2000

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: participants were asked to list 3 nursing problems involving emergency patients or emergency nursing that might be addressed by research, 456 research questions/ideas/topics submitted. Step 2: content analysis: initial responses collapsed into 154 research topics, reworded, and edited into the format of a research question. Step 3: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to rate each research question along two questions. Step 4: Delphi round 3: items that had a group median of less than 5 in round 2 were omitted to shorten the instrument, list of 106 research topics, participants were asked to re-rate based on group median and own ratings in round 2

Which stakeholders took part?

Highly experienced emergency nurses with more than 18 years of emergency nursing experience on average. 147 participants in Delphi round 1, 101 participants in Delphi round 2, 79 participants in Delphi round 3.

How were stakeholders recruited?

The expert panel of 320 nurses was selected from the ENA roster of all members of committees, work groups, and vision councils, the ENA Board of Directors, ENA State Council presidents for the year 2000, persons who had served as members of the research groups and scientific review panels for 1999 and 2000, and all nurse members of the editorial board and contributing editors for the Journal of Emergency Nursing were included.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.