

Identifying Research Priorities with Nurses at a Tertiary Children's Hospital in the United Kingdom

Williams et al. (2017)
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For which topic were research priorities identified?

children's health care/nursing

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - United Kingdom

Why was it conducted at all?

The delivery of high-quality health care depends on the use of the best available evidence (Department of Health 2006). The availability of this evidence is in part dependent on the research agendas of those funding, developing and carrying out the research. Healthcare research agendas have historically been driven primarily by researchers and the pharmaceutical/medical technology industries (Chalmers et al. 2013) often within an academic context (Kuhn 1970; Kirkevold 1997). It is well recognized, however, that these agendas may not necessarily reflect the questions that matter most to 'users' or consumers of research, including health professionals, patients and their families. The importance of inclusiveness in establishing research priorities is reflected in current policy, which emphasizes that greater involvement of patients and health professionals is key to advancing the health research agenda in the United Kingdom (UK).

What was the objective?

to undertake a research priority setting exercise with the aim of maximizing efficiency and impact in research activity undertaken by nurses at one children's tertiary healthcare institution by ensuring the clinical staff directly shaped a coherent, transparent and consensus driven nurse-led research agenda

What was the outcome?

a list of 5 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

January 2013 - June 2014

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

group discussion; survey

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: group discussion: with nominal group technique: 24 group discussions, total of 269 research topics formulated. Step 2: survey: participants were asked to rank ideas, resulting in set of four to five priorities for each of the 24 clinical areas. Step 3: group discussion among working group: ranking and finalizing of eight core overarching research topics, followed by voting to identify the top 5 topics

Which stakeholders took part?

Nurses at one children's tertiary healthcare institution. Group discussion: 147 participants. Survey: 168 participants. Group discussion: 6 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

All nurses of a tertiary children's UK hospital were invited to participate through an invitation circulated by the heads of nursing for each division and through posters on each ward area.

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.