

Evidence-based Practice — Culture of Inquiry, Standardization, Science and Knowledge

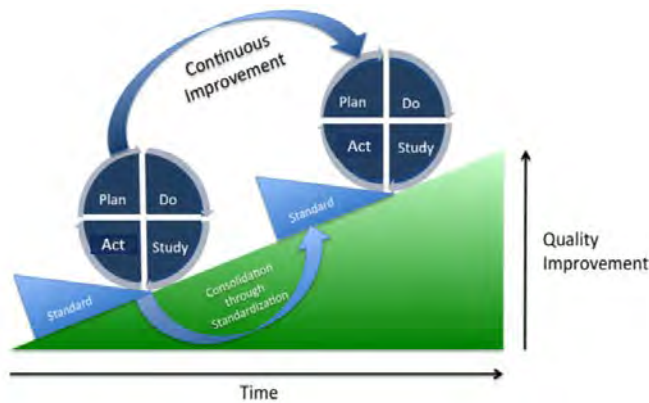
The Quality and Evidence-Based Council is a robust group of nurses with representation from inpatient and outpatient units/clinics, specialty areas and hospital quality departments. Council members use evidence-based practice data to improve clinical practice according to The Joint Commission, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, strategic goals and professional organization standards. They review trends and issues identified through the Collaborative Governance Council, research these issues and propose evidence-based changes to improve patient safety. Furthermore, council members make recommendations to the unit-based councils and Practice Council based on the review of literature and best practices. The members conduct evidence-based practice projects on patient care units determined by the interest and importance of council members using the “Plan Do Study Act” cycle to collect outcome measures.

project was a success and electronic handoff was implemented throughout all inpatient units.

In addition to using published evidence, this group collaborated with other disciplines to make recommendations to enhance nursing care provided at the bedside. A topic ID was submitted requesting guidance on how to manage difficult urinary catheter placement for male patients. The council reached out to the Medical College of Wisconsin librarian for assistance in identifying relevant articles. The council members also followed the Johns Hopkins evidence-based practice model used by Froedtert Health to seek expert opinion, which is one of the categories of relevance used by this model. The group also contacted a urologist who assisted in developing an algorithm to be followed by nursing staff to assist in identifying male patients who may be a difficult urinary catheter placement.

2020 and 2021 Evidence-Based Projects Reviewed by the CHD Evidence-Based Practice and Quality Council:

- Smoke Evacuators in the OR
- Emergency Department Handoff to Inpatient Unit
- Post-Fall Spinal Immobilization
- Ultrasound Doppler on Code Carts
- Respiratory Safety Program for Outpatients
- CAUTI Care for Prone Patients



Practice issues are identified primarily through topic IDs. Through this process, bedside nurses submit an idea for council members to review the evidence and make evidence-based recommendations. Electronic handoff for patients admitted from the Emergency Department was a recent topic ID reviewed and addressed by the council members. Nursing staff in the Emergency Department proposed the idea of electronic handoff when transitioning patient care. Council members reviewed the literature, researched practices at area hospitals and surveyed staff to determine whether this change in practice would be an optimal practice change. Based on these findings, the council members felt there was strong enough evidence to support the new practice change and recommended a pilot of the handoff process. The pilot project was instituted Jan. 26, 2021, between the Emergency Departments and MCUs at both Froedtert Menomonee Falls and Froedtert West Bend Hospitals and completed March 4, 2022. After a review of the pilot project data and key learnings, a second trial was conducted. The second pilot