INTRODUCTION

Nursing is both an art and a science. Nurses rely on knowledge from the biological, behavioral, physical, and social sciences to make decisions. Nursing knowledge is gained several ways including but not limited to formal education, clinical practice, and research. While nurses value science, we also value the art of our profession. The art of nursing is built upon such things as wisdom, compassion, effective communication, and respect for human dignity. In order for nurses to gain competence in both the art and science of nursing, they must be committed to life-long learning. One of the most systematic ways to learn is through research activities. While research activities result in the discovery of knowledge, there are five steps that must be taken before that knowledge is usable in clinical practice. These steps are: 1) knowledge discovery (research), 2) a systematic review of the evidence found in the literature (summary), 3) translation of the evidence into practice recommendations (clinical practice guidelines), 4) integration of best evidence into practice (evidence-based practice), and 5) evaluation of outcomes (quality improvement activities) (Stevens, 2005).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this position statement is to articulate the Society for Vascular Nursing's beliefs about the importance and value of research activities in the field of vascular nursing and vascular disease, and the role of the registered nurse engaging in these activities. In addition, this statement will identify the Society's role in supporting and disseminating research activities, and the promotion of evidence based practice.

DEFINITION OF EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

The integration of best evidence into practice based on clinical expertise and patient values.

POSITION ON THE ROLE OF RESEARCH IN NURSING PRACTICE

1. We believe nursing research is vital because research expands nursing knowledge which is the basis for nursing practice.
2. We believe a systematic review of literature that follows the Cochrane tradition, a meta-analysis, or a well-designed large-scale clinical trial can and should be used to change practice when appropriate for the clinical site and patient population.
3. We believe clinical practice guidelines should be used as tools to support informed clinical decisions.
4. We believe evidence-based practice guidelines are most useful when integrated *with* clinical expertise and patient values.
5. We believe quality improvement activities are vital in order to determine the effectiveness of nursing interventions and practice changes.

POSITION ON THE ROLE OF THE REGISTERED NURSE IN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

All registered professional nurses should:

- Identify clinical problems requiring investigation.
- Assist in the collection of data within a structured format.
- With assistance, read research critically and use existing standards to determine the readiness of research and systematic reviews for utilization in clinical practice.
- Define evidence based practice
- Know the difference between primary research, a systematic review, and a clinical practice guideline.
- Participate on teams to develop agency-specific evidence-based clinical practice guidelines.
- Compare own practice with agency's recommended evidence-based clinical practice guidelines.
- Participate in the organizational culture of evidence-based quality improvement in care.
- Deliver care using evidence-based clinical practice guidelines.
- Choose evidence-based approaches over routine as base for own clinical decision making.
- Participate in evidence-based quality improvement processes to evaluate outcomes of practice changes.
- Participate in research activities to the extent of education and knowledge.

SVN'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

We believe the Society for Vascular Nursing has a role in supporting research activities and the integration of best evidence into nursing practice. The Society provides research grants as available via application and selection. Members of the Society involved in the research process can apply for these funds. In addition, the Society is committed to promoting evidence-based practice through a variety of other research activities supported by the Research Committee.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF PRIMARY RESEARCHERS

Nursing researchers must follow the legal and ethical constructs from the Nuremberg Code (1947), Declaration of Helsinki (World Medical Association, 1964), National Research Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-348), and Belmont Report (NCPHS, 1979); all of which are incorporated in the federal Common Rule regulating research in the United States (DHHS 45CFR46, 1991). These ethical and legal precepts guide investigators and nurses caring for patients who are also research subjects. All vascular nurse researchers must protect the rights and welfare of human subjects and adhere to the ethical principles regarding research involving humans as subjects, as set forth in the report of the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research. Vascular nursing research involving animals must provide for the humane care and use of animals as outlined in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (National Research Council, 1996). All vascular nursing research involving human subjects must include women and members of minority groups and

their subpopulations to the extent possible unless a clear and compelling rationale shows that inclusion is inappropriate with respect to the health of the subjects or the purpose of the research.

CONCLUSION

The Society for Vascular Nursing believes that nursing research and expert nursing knowledge are major contributors to excellent nursing practice. It is our desire to support nursing research by supporting the activities that lead to knowledge transformation. By supporting knowledge transformation, both financially and through the weight of our time and effort, we believe that nurses can significantly improve their practice and thereby improve patient outcomes.

1) Department of Health and Human Services Code of Federal Regulations (1991, revised 2005). Title 45 public welfare: Part 46 protection of human subjects http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/45cfr46.htm.. Available from:

2) National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research. (1979). The belmont report: Ethical principles and guidelines for the protection of human subjects of research. Available from: http://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/IRBS/belmont.html

3) National Research Council (1996). Guide for the care and use of laboratory animals. Washington D.C.: National Academy Press

4) Stevens, KR (2005). Essential competencies of evidence-based practice in nursing. The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio: Academic Center for Evidence-Based Practice.

5) The Nuremberg Code (1947) from Trials of war criminals before the nuremberg military tribunals under control council Law No. 10. Nuremberg, October 1946-April 1949. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office. Available from: http://www.ushmm.org/research/doctors/Nuremberg_Code.htm

6) World Medical Association. (1964, amended 2000). Declaration of Helsinki: Ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects. Available from: http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm

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