The Roll of Research Nurse; In practice

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Introduction:

Research nurses play a vital role in support his hospital, Colleagues, and department , ensuring clinical studies run smoothly and that participants are safe and fully informed. Without dedicated research nursing staff it is difficult to succeed in clinical research.

The Roll of Research Nurse

The role of the Research Nurse is provides evidence used to support nursing practices. Nursing, as an evidence-based area of practice, has been developing since the time of Florence Nightingale to the present day, where many nurses now work as researchers based in universities as well as in the health care setting.

Setting up a trial is a lengthy process that requires input from many different people before it can reach the hospital or area where the research is to take place. These people include statisticians, sponsors and chief investigators\(^1\).

When the research question and the design of the study have been agreed, a protocol (the action plan of the study) is written. When feasibility and funding have been established, the protocol needs ethics approval and in some cases approval by government or other authorities\(^1\).

Nurse researchers are scientists who study various aspects of health, illness, and health care. By designing and implementing scientific studies, they look for ways to improve health, healthcare services, and healthcare outcomes\(^2\).

Nurse researchers may begin their research careers in positions such as research assistant, clinical data coordinator, and clinical research monitor\(^2\).

The title of principle investigator reflects the most senior research role and greatest responsibility and accountability associated with a research study. Studies conducted by these dedicated researchers are uncovering such things as new and better ways to:

1. Deliver healthcare services more effectively and efficiently
2. Improve quality of life for patients suffering from chronic illnesses
3. Encourage patients to make healthy choices about nutrition, fitness, and lifestyle
4. Assure patient safety and prevent injury and illness
5. Provide care and comfort to patients at the end of life\(^2\)

Nursing research involves systematic inquiry specifically designed to develop, refine, and extend nursing knowledge. As part of a clinical and professional discipline, nurses have a unique body of knowledge that addresses nursing practice, administration, and education. Nurse researchers examine problems of specific concern to nurses and the patients, families, and communities they serve\(^3\).

Traditional scientific research is characterized by several features. The researcher uses systematic, orderly, and objective methods of seeking information. The scientific method uses empirical data, which are data gathered through the sense organs. Information is gained in the form of data or facts that are obtained in an unbiased manner from some aspect of the real world. The researcher tries to exercise as much control as possible over the research situation, to minimize biased results. Various means of exercising such control are discussed throughout this book. The researcher’s opinions and personal biases should not influence the findings of a study\(^4\).

Research can take many forms, such as testing a new drug, looking at different interventions and testing a theory\(^1\).

**Conclusion:**

Research is vital in health care to support current practice and to inform better approaches and improve patient outcomes. “It helps us to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent health problems.

Most nurses apply a problem-solving approach to their practice - the knowledge they use is often a combination of tradition, ritual, experience and authority.

References:

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