

CHARTER

NURSING RESEARCH COUNCIL

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Nursing Research Council at United Hospital is to promote, educate and disseminate the conduction and utilization of nursing research with the goal of creating evidence-based practice (EBP). Benefits of the council to United Hospital include:

1. Promotion of best outcomes for patients, families and staff.
2. Promotion of the advancement and professionalization of nursing.

MEETINGS

Meetings will be held every month for 4 hours. Staff time will come from central Nursing Research budget.

LEADERSHIP

Two co-chairs, one Clinical Nurse Specialist and one Staff Nurse.

FUNCTIONS

1. Encourage and support the conduct and dissemination of nursing research.
 - a. Journal reviews at meetings.
 - b. Assist in development and evaluation of evidence-based policies/protocols.
 - c. Coordinate housewide research utilization projects.
 - d. Provide a forum to consult with RN/BSN & graduate students regarding research education and school projects.
2. Review nursing research proposals to be conducted at United.
 - a. Provide a link with nurse researchers from outside United Hospital.
 - b. Review anticipated impact on departmental resources (nursing staff, patients, etc.)
 - c. Provide input on scientific merit.
 - d. Identify strategies to communicate research studies to be implemented to nursing staff, as well as for dissemination of findings to staff.
 - e. Reviews will be conducted by all members (majority of membership must be present).
3. Provide education & consultation to nursing staff in writing research proposals and grant proposals.
 - a. Writing nursing research and grant proposals.
 - b. Dissemination of research through professional talks/posters at committee meetings and other professional conferences such as the Allina Professional Nursing Practice Conference.
 - c. Dissemination of research through publishing findings in nursing and interdisciplinary publications.
4. Promote interdisciplinary research
 - a. Collaborate with allied health care professionals on patient care research.
5. Provide nursing research grant awards - Funds to be obtained from Allina Nursing Research Council.



**UNITED
HOSPITAL**

Allina Hospitals & Clinics

MEMBERSHIP

The Nursing Research Council consists of Staff Nurses, Care Coordinators, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Learning and Education Specialists. All care centers will have representation. Total membership will range from 12-15 members, with 3-5 holding master's degrees. Members must hold at least a .4 work agreement, and have an alternate who will attend in their absence whenever possible.

Attendance Expectations

Members are expected to attend 9 of the 12 meetings each year, with 3 uncovered absences allowed. When an absence is known in advance, members are expected to communicate with their alternate to determine if their schedule can be adjusted to allow them to attend in their absence. [Note: If members have an alternate attend in their place, this will not count as an uncovered absence.]

Length of Membership

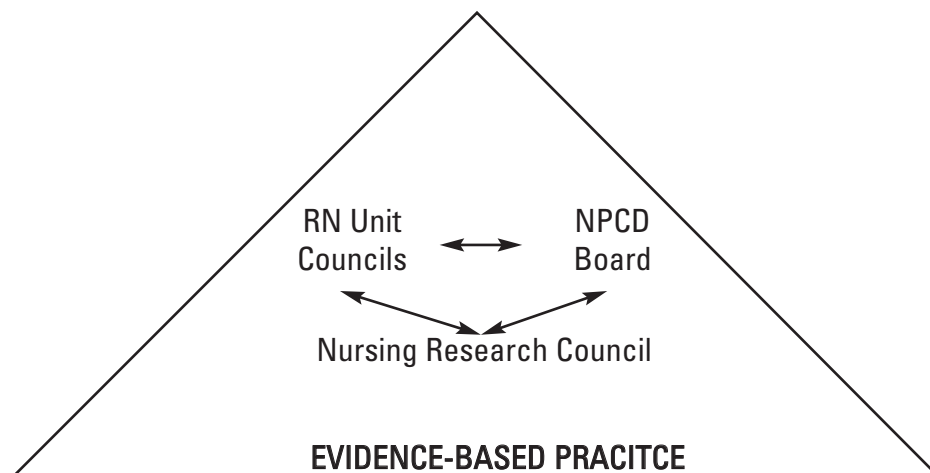
Membership will be for 3-4 years, with staggering terms to allow for smooth transitions. Each fall, membership will be evaluated, and three staff nurse members will be selected to rotate off to allow for new member participation of each care center. The Co-Chairs of the Nursing Research Council will oversee this annual rotation process using a membership grid outlining the month/year that each member joined the council. The following criteria will be used to identify rotating members:

1. Attendance — Those with lowest attendance
2. Time on Council — Those with longest tenure
NOTE: If several members have same length of tenure, rotation will be decided first by attendance and then by a drawing (if attendance equal)
3. Volunteers — Those who choose to resign seat
4. Interested Staff — Those who have coworker from their unit/care center that has expressed interest

Co-Chairs of the council will individually contact members who have been identified to rotate off the council. The Operations Leader from this unit/care center will then be contacted to start the process of recruiting a new member prior to the departure of the current member. Alternate members, if interested, will be given first choice for a new 3-year term membership. New membership terms will begin in January of each year.

EVIDENCE-BASED EXPERTS

Members who rotate off the Nursing Research Council after serving a 3-year term will serve as the resident expert on EBP for their unit and care center.



These EBP nurses will be encouraged and supported to:

1. Become an active member of their RN Unit Council and/or serve as a consultant to this council when issues around EBP are discussed.
2. Coach and mentor fellow nurse colleagues about how to read, interpret and utilize nursing research findings in clinical practice.
3. Consult with Director of Nursing Research/Quality and/or Advanced Practice Nurses on clinical questions or issues related to EBP.

Ad hoc membership will also be offered to previous members of the Nursing Research Council. Ad hoc members, while non-voting members, may be consulted to assist with unit and/or hospital-wide research utilization projects.

LINKAGES

The Nursing Research Council interfaces with:

- RN Unit Councils
- Nursing Practice Care Delivery Board
- MNA Organization
- Strengthening Nursing Practice
- Ethics Committee
- Nursing Leadership
- Research Compliance
- Institutional Review Board
- Allina Patient Care Council

EVALUATION

1. Number of nursing research projects reviewed, conducted, disseminated and completed.
2. Number and status of research utilization projects at end of each year.
3. Impact of nursing research projects on patient, family and nursing staff.