



"The Evidence-Based Practice Fellowship has expanded my nursing practice. I now ask about or look for the research to back up the interventions implemented at the bedside. The whole direction of my career has changed because of the fellowship. Initially, I was totally ignorant about EBP and nursing research. I have now completed a research study, presented the results at the University of Minnesota and the National Teaching Institute, and have and been accepted into a PhD nursing program to begin this fall. Two years prior to the fellowship, I would have never envisioned these opportunities occurring."

– Laura Genzler, BSN, RN, PB2000



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ABBOTT NORTHWESTERN HOSPITAL

Evidence-Based Fellowship Program



The Abbott Northwestern Hospital Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Fellowship, in partnership with St. Catherine University, is a 12-month program in which a staff nurse is partnered with an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) to address a relevant nursing practice question.

The Program

The program includes inter-professional teams, classroom instruction, one-to-one mentorship with an APRN and integration of the EBP change into patient care. Participants will get 2-eight hour scholarship days per month within their work agreement for the duration of the fellowship. Free continuing education (CEU) will be available.

The EBP Fellow will be required to participate in an inter-professional, semester-long class titled Evidence-Based Practice. The class will meet every two weeks (September through December) on the first and third Thursday's of the month at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. The course, taken in conjunction with the inter-professional team, will provide the fellow with the skills for EBP. The 8 topic modules includes an overview of EBP, asking the question, searching the literature, appraising the literature, developing a plan for implementation of a practice change, evaluation of the results of the practice change, leadership for creating change and dissemination/publication.

Partnership with St. Catherine's University

This unique partnership with St. Catherine University provides collaboration between clinical staff, faculty, and students with expertise to help answer the nurses' clinical question. This partnership augments ANW's EBP Fellowship by bringing faculty expertise in research and EBP; support for grant applications; provision of additional disciplines to partner with nurses; support for education of EBP Fellows and clinical mentors; and lessening of the work load through project sharing.

Program Goals

Three teams will conduct and complete a clinical question at Abbott Northwestern Hospital to address hospital organizational priorities related to improving patient outcomes.

Staff of Abbott Northwestern, and faculty and students of St. Catherine University will demonstrate greater knowledge, and stronger attitudes supporting evidence-based practice at the end of 8 modules on the topic.

Candidate Requirements

Candidates for this program:

- Have 2,500 hours of clinical experience in an acute care setting at Abbott Northwestern and a work agreement of 0.6 or greater
- Be informal leaders among peers
- Have distinguished clinical performances
- Plan to stay at Abbott Northwestern until project is complete
- Identify a relevant clinical practice question

A bachelor's degree is preferred for candidates of this program or currently enrolled in a BSN completion program. Employees who are also attending St. Catherine University are able to negotiate credit for the EBP Fellows program or work with faculty to use some or all of the work from the program as fulfilling an assignment(s) within a current course or degree program.

Evidence-based practice projects or research must be completed within 12 months with an opportunity to reapply for a second 12-month appointment.

Application Due Date:

Monday, June 17, 2013

Participation Notification:

Monday, July 8, 2013

Fellowships Begin:

Thursday, September 5, 2013

Applications should be submitted to Sue Sendelbach at internal zip 11404



Fellowship Expectations

Once accepted into the program, participants are expected to attend all classroom sessions, interprofessional team meetings, and come prepared to discuss assignments. Regular meeting with the unit manager and the assigned mentor are required. At the close of the project, fellows will disseminate results to colleagues at Abbott Northwestern, the annual Interprofessional Summit at St. Catherine University, and submit for a poster, oral presentation and/or publication at a local and/or national nursing conference.

Application Process

To apply for the EBP Fellowship program, visit the ANW Communication Site on the AKN.

Click on "Research" to download the necessary forms. Nurses will also need to submit a letter of support from their patient care unit manager, a letter of agreement for an APRN and a letter from a peer.