



Position Statement on Evidence-Based Practice and the Role of the Registered Nurse in Research Activities

INTRODUCTION

Vascular nurses rely on knowledge from the biological, behavioral, physical, and social sciences to make decisions. Vascular nursing knowledge is gained several ways including but not limited to formal education, clinical practice, and research. Research is a scientific process that uses a systematic inquiry to answer questions or solve problems related to vascular nursing. In addition, it validates and refines existing knowledge that directly and indirectly influences clinical vascular nursing practice.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this position statement is to articulate the Society for Vascular Nursing's views 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

Evidence-based practice (EBP) is a conscientious, explicit and judicious use of theory-derived, research-based information in making decisions about care delivery with consideration of individual needs and preferences (Ingersoll, 2000). Simply stated, EBP is an integration of individual clinical expertise with the best available external proof and patient values and expectations.

POSITION ON THE ROLE OF RESEARCH IN VASCULAR NURSING PRACTICE

1. Vascular nursing research is vital because research is the basis for vascular nursing practice.
2. When reviewing literature, grading the evidence using a hierarchical approach should be used in developing clinical practice guidelines and designing research activities.
3. Vascular clinical practice guidelines should be used as tools to support informed clinical decisions and are the basis of vascular nursing practice.
4. Evidence-based practice guidelines are most useful when integrated with individual clinical expertise and patient values.
5. Outcome evaluation is vital in order to determine the effectiveness of nursing interventions and practice changes.

POSITION ON THE ROLE OF THE REGISTERED NURSE IN VASCULAR 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.
- Deliver care using evidence-based clinical practice guidelines
- Participate in the organizational culture of evidence-based quality improvement/outcome evaluations Choose evidence-based approaches over routine as a basis for clinical decision making.
- Participate in quality improvement/outcome processes to evaluate EBP practice changes.
- Participate in research activities

SVN'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT VASCULAR RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

We believe the Society for Vascular Nursing has a role in supporting vascular research activities and the integration of best evidence into vascular 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 Practice and 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, expert nursing knowledge and consideration of the patient's beliefs/preferences are the basis of evidence-based vascular nursing practice. It is our intent to support vascular nursing research by supporting the research activities that lead to e practice transformation. By supporting practice transformation, both financially and through the weight of our time and effort, nurses can significantly improve their vascular practice and thereby improve vascular patient outcomes.

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Revised: Practice & Research Committee: September 2014

Approved SVN BOD: October 2014

Initial SVN BOD Approval: November 2000

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