Precon -- Mini-Boot Camp: The Nuts and Bolts of Evidence-based Practice

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Learning Outcomes:
As a result of participating in this educational activity, learners will be able to:
- Explain the importance of evidence-based practice within school nurse practice;
- Describe the steps of evidence-based practice;
- Demonstrate how to locate evidence-based resources for individual care and school community populations;
- Analyze strategies for the translation of evidence-based practice across districts, regions, states and nationally; and
- Discuss 2 ways they will use evidence-based interventions to influence practice.

About the Session:
Professional school nursing demands that our practice align with our standards, is current, and follows best practice. School nurses report that they want to practice within an evidence-based framework but are unsure of how to do so. Since the majority of school nurses’ formal education occurred before the inclusion of EBP in nursing education, it is important to increase competency through instruction and active participation. School nurses must learn the basics of EBP and then have an opportunity to discuss how EBP will fit into their own practice setting. The impact of EBP changes to practice and district policy will also be examined, and the group will identify approaches to address these changes. In addition, the imperative to disseminate school nurse experience with EBP and its relationship to quality improvement and research will be discussed.

Why this is important to a school nurse:
The purpose of this activity is to enable the learner to increase their knowledge and competency in evidence-based practice (EBP). Participants will have opportunities to learn the concepts related to EBP as well as how EBP applies to their school nursing practice. This interactive workshop will use individual and group work to make EBP real and will explore strategies that make changes in practice and school policy. This preconference session will provide an overview and lay the foundation for the afternoon sessions “Searching for Evidence”.

Additional Author(s): Erin D. Maughan, PhD, MS, RN, APHN-BC, FAAN, FNASN, Director of Research