The Rockingham Memorial Hospital’s Professional Nursing Clinical Ladder Recognition Committee and Health Sciences Librarian, George Curran along with JMU nursing professor, Dr. Margaret Bagnardi are collaborating to introduce Evidence Based Practice (EBP) to RMH.

The Professional Nursing Clinical Ladder Recognition Program is new to RMH. It promotes and rewards registered nurses who participate in additional nursing activities, serve on committees, educate staff and patients, etc, all beyond their job requirements. EBP is one of the program’s initiatives to encourage nursing research projects that improve patient care, save nursing time and reduce costs to the healthcare system.

EBP is part of an international movement to improve patient care and patient outcomes through the conscientious use of current evidence and best practices. EBP promotes the collection, interpretation, and integration of valid and applicable patient-reported, clinician-observed, and research-derived evidence. The best available evidence, moderated by patient circumstances and preferences, is applied to improve the quality of clinical judgments.

Before nursing professionals can be encouraged to carry out research projects to provide evidence supporting or rejecting the use of specific interventions, they require a basic understanding of research principles and information of how to transfer these principles into everyday practice. Thanks to support received from the Nursing Education Department at JMU, Dr. Bagnardi taught two “Introduction to Evidence Based Practice” seminars in 2008. In 2009, she will conduct succeeding workshops on how to do a literature search and select an EBP project. George Curran, Health Science Librarian from the RMH’s Virginia Funkhouser Health Sciences Library, a seminar and workshop contributor, is providing participating nurses with lessons on how to conduct research online and in the RMH library.

This instruction has begun to demystify the use of research and motivate participating nurses to apply EBP to their everyday work. The results include excellent patient care and a nursing corps confident that what they are doing is based on the best information currently available.

The partnership between the RMH Professional Nursing Clinical Ladder Committee and the RMH Health Sciences Library, with JMU’s Nursing Education Department has been most productive, and in the near future, an exhibit of EBP projects conducted by RMH nurses and JMU nursing students will be displayed at the hospital.

RMH Professional Nursing Clinical Ladder Recognition Committee
Leslie Ney RN – Chair

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