Finnish Doctoral Education Network in Nursing Science

IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF HEALTH CARE THROUGH OUTCOMES RESEARCH, 8 ECTS

Time and place:
Lectures and Seminars 28th September – 2nd October, 2015
University of Tampere, School of Health Sciences, Nursing Science
Lääkärinkatu 1, 33014 University of Tampere, Room C333

Course leader:
Professor Tarja Suominen

Teachers:
Professor Sean Clarke, RN, PhD
Connell School of Nursing, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, USA

Professor Tarja Suominen, RN, PhD
School of Health Sciences, Nursing Science, University of Tampere

Credits:
8 ECTS

Registration:
By 14th August 2015 via www-page form:
https://www.webropolsurveys.com/S/A5D7161A1D4B29A5.par

Contact person:
Coordinator Kaisa Kauppi kaemka@utu.fi
COURSE DESCRIPTION

For nurses and many other health professionals, objective performance data on past practice behaviours and outcomes are often not readily available. This can lead to the assumption that performance is adequate and there is no need for improvement. It is essential that we link the conduct and focus of outcomes research with opportunities for improvement in care. Feedback about the outcomes or results of care enables healthcare professionals to evaluate their practice and make changes to improve the quality of health care.

In this course students will examine the role of outcomes research for improving the quality of nursing care. They will develop an understanding of how to identify outcomes for nursing, learn about different approaches to measurement, and examine contemporary issues in outcomes assessment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course it is expected that students will demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of how outcome research can be used to improve the quality of health care.
2. Knowledge of which outcomes are sensitive to nursing care.
3. An understanding of different approaches to outcomes measurement.
4. An understanding of how to enhance the quality of outcomes measurement.
5. An understanding of the relationship between quality work environments, nurse staffing, and patient outcomes.

COURSE ORGANIZATION AND TEACHING METHODS

Time: 28th September – 2nd October, 2015, 9-4pm (On Monday 10-4pm) (see details in Appendix at the end of the paper)

COURSE MATERIAL

A reading list, including journal articles and recommended texts will be provided.

Specific Topics

1. Health outcomes research: Terminology and designs
2. The role of outcomes research in improving the quality of nursing/ health care—evidence-based practice and management.
3. Identifying outcomes sensitive to nursing care and nurse-related factors.
4. State of the science on nursing sensitive outcomes.
5. Patient safety indicators and research
6. What can be learned from administrative databases about the outcomes of health care?
7. Relationship between quality work environments, nurse staffing and patient outcomes.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

(1) A student seminar: Discuss how outcomes measurement is related to your own doctoral research study or could be.
(2) A student paper, exploring a specific outcome, its applicability to a practice or research issue, and measurement issues. (Could be the same topic as in (1).)

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT SEMINAR PRESENTATION

In the seminar students are expected to explore how outcomes measurement is relevant to their own doctoral research study. Students are expected to explore conceptual and methodological issues as these related to the type of study that will be pursued in the doctoral research. Students are expected to use a variety of teaching strategies in order to facilitate learning of the content. Each seminar should be no more than 30 minutes in length, including the time for class discussion. The following criteria will be considered in grading the seminar: (1) clarity in the presentation of ideas, (2) creativity in the presentation, (3) stimulation of discussion, critical thinking, (4) ability to stay within the allotted time frame, (5) openness to other students’ ideas, (6) originality, (7) organization, (8) critical evaluation, (9) depth of knowledge, and (10) command of ideas.

The student should turn in 2 copies of the PowerPoint presentation in paper form to the course instructors on the first day of class (2 copies).

GUIDELINES FOR THE SCHOLARLY PAPER ON OUTCOMES RELEVANT FOR EVALUATING NURSING PRACTICE

The scholarly paper should select an outcome for evaluating the effectiveness of your clinical or leadership (or education) practice. Conduct a search of the literature for evidence to support the outcome selected, using the framework suggested by Hermann and Palmer (2002). Discuss the evidence concerning the outcome indicator, succinctly synthesize the evidence, and advance recommendations for measurement. The paper should address the following issues:

Rationale for selecting the outcome for evaluating clinical or leadership practice or learning outcomes of education, with supporting evidence from the literature

Description of methodology for the literature review

Application of the framework for critically reviewing the literature specifically addressing the following:

1. Is there potential for improvement in the outcome as evidenced by variation in levels of outcome achievement between people or between practice settings;
2. Are there established evidence-based recommendations for improving the outcome, such as care maps, nursing best practice guidelines, clinical practice guidelines?
3. Is there a reliable measure/method for assessing the outcome? For instance is there a measure with demonstrated internal consistency reliability or inter-rater reliability?

4. Does the approach to measurement have demonstrated validity as evidenced by content
validity or construct validity?

5. Does the approach to measurement yield meaningful or interpretable values/scores for end-user interpretation?

The paper should be written in the format of a short scholarly paper using APA guidelines and be restricted to 10-15 double spaced pages, excluding references. The paper is due 30th October 2015. The paper should be sent to Professor Tarja Suominen by mail, address: University of Tampere, School of Health Sciences, Nursing Science, Lääkärinkatu 1, 33014 University of Tampere.

The language for the course is English. The paper after the week could be done either in English or Finnish.

The following criteria/rubric will be used for grading the paper:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Marks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adequate rationale for selecting the outcome for evaluating clinical or leadership practice based on evidence from the literature or from practice</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description of methodology for the literature review, including keyword search, databases searched, and inclusion criteria for literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application of the framework in critically reviewing the literature on nursing sensitive outcome, addressing each criteria</td>
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<td>Clarity in presentation of ideas and use of APA formatting</td>
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SUGGESTED READING LIST:

BOOKS (OPTIONAL)

Iezzoni, L., Risk Adjustment for Measuring Healthcare Outcomes (4th ed.). Chicago: Health Administration Press.* (the leading text in the field but expensive—and specialized—for consultation but not necessarily purchase)


ARTICLE FOR PAPER ASSIGNMENT


SUGGESTED ARTICLES

*Conceptualizing nurse-sensitive outcomes*


Mitchell, P. H., & Lang, N. M. (2004). Framing the problem of measuring and improving healthcare quality. Has the quality health outcomes model been useful? Medical Care, 42, II4 - II-11.


Nurse staffing and patient or nurse outcomes


**Patient safety**


**Economic outcomes**


**Evidence-based practice and patient outcomes**


### Appendix 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
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