Influencing Health Policy with Pain Management Nursing Research

Disclosures

- Dr. Schreier has no disclosures to report

Objectives

- Describe current influences on health policy development regarding pain
- Appraise level of research needed to inform pain health policy
- Recommend future nursing research directions in pain management
Scope of Policy

- Institution level
- State level
- Federal level

Frameworks for shaping health policy

- Hinshaw and Grady (2011) identified
  - Data-Driven Policy Making (Weinick & Shin, 2003)
  - Evidence-Informed health policy (Green & Bennett, 2007)
  - Moving from Issue to Policy (Shonin et al, 2002)

Evidence-Informed Health Policy: Functions
(Green & Bennett, 2007)
Evidence-informed policy: Influences

- Ideology & values
- Ability to use evidence
- Personal experience & intuition
- Personal interests

Evidence-Informed Health Policy: Organizations

- Funding bodies
- Research institutions
- Advocacy organizations
- Think tanks
- Media
- Government bodies

When is nursing research most likely to influence policy

- Addresses major public health issue
- Multiple audiences interested
- Addresses the economies
- Focus is on clients, families or communities
When research evidence most likely helpful

- There exists a disagreement about plan of action and research will assist policy makers to save face
- Research provides support for strongly held beliefs

Least likely that research used

- Hidden agendas exist
- Strongly held values and beliefs by policy makers

Examples current issues that highly influence policy and do not take into account research evidence

- Differentiation of chronic malignant vs. non-malignant pain
- Dose limits for opioid prescriptions
Reading the “tea leaves”

- Window of opportunity
- Concern of “opioid” substance abuse epidemic
- Move the public discourse from pain management—opioids and opioids are bad
- May be a time for funding of research for alternative therapies, multimodal therapy or interdisciplinary demonstration projects

Gap between data generators and data users

- Researchers
- **KNOWLEDGE GAP**
- Policy Makers

Types of information sought by legislators

- Demographics, prevalence
- Disparity, severity
- Cost Data
- Addresses health and safety (may not belong here)
Strategic planning by organization

Seek to set a research agenda for generation of knowledge needed to influence positive pain policy.

Examining what do we currently do to address some crucial issues:
- Position statements
- Knowledge development
- Influencing priority for funding of nursing research
- NINR (Symptom Science)
- NIH Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee
- Influencing policy makers

Goal for ASPMN® is to focus on:

- Identifying the need (gap): unsafe processes
- Identifying who will benefit: in-hospital patients across the continuum of age
- Level of evidence required
- Level of evidence available
- Research questions (measurement of pain severity)
- Role of opioid therapy
- Use of multi-modal

Prescribing by pain intensity:

1. Pasero, Quinlan-Colwell, Rox, Broglio & Drew, 2016
Communicating results

- Who needs to know
- Who are allies

Questions to discuss

- What are main issues or toll for research?
- What gaps have we identified?
- What are barriers to generating knowledge to address these gaps?
- How can ASPMN use its influence to reduce barriers and generate knowledge?

References