The Experience & Effectiveness of Nurse Practitioners in Orthopaedic Settings: A Review of the Literature

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Anita Taylor, ONP, OrthoNCert, GradDipOrtho, MNSc, candidate MCISc
Background to Nurse Practitioner Role

- ~ 50 years ago NP exists in US
- 1965 NP role established in US
- 1967 NP role established in Canada (Sangster-Gormley et al, 2011)
- In UK NP role was introduced over 20 years ago
- 2002 ICN Definition NP/APN
- 2009 ICN Nursing Matters Fact Sheet
- “NP/APN: Definition & Characteristics”

Nil international consensus on how advanced practice nursing (APN) roles are defined

- Mid-90’s early citations populate literature regarding ‘specialist’ orthopaedic nursing practice …
ONP Development in Australia

• 1986 Post career structure debate around nursing practice & NP begins
• 1998 Inaugural ‘legal & policy’ NP framework developed in NSW (Chiarella for NSW Health, 2008)
• 2000 First NP authorised in NSW
• 2005 First Orthopaedic Nurse Practitioner (ONP) authorised
• 8 ONP’s currently *
Personal Experience

- MNSc: thesis recommendations 1999
- NP Support Group
- NP Action Learning Set
- ONP Survey
- MCISc & Systematic Review
Research Question

What is the experience and effectiveness of nurse practitioners in orthopaedic settings?
Comprehensive Systematic Review

- Effectiveness of ONP care on patient outcomes and process indicators
- Experience of becoming or being an ONP in relation to role development, role implementation & (ongoing) role evaluation
- Contemporary discourse on the effectiveness & experience of NPs in orthopaedic settings
Systematic Review: ONP Specific Care

- **Primary Outcomes**
  - Patient encounter
  - Patient satisfaction
  - Process of care
  - Complications
  - Nurse-sensitive indicators

- **Secondary Outcomes**
  - LOS
  - ONP satisfaction
  - Specialised knowledge/skill development
  - Cost/benefit & “productivity”
  - ‘Stakeholder’ satisfaction
Comparator

• Care provided by a nurse other than an ONP
• Doctor Substitution
  – Mini-doctor versus maxi-nurse (Castledine 1995)
  – Medical labour
United States

- Led the way …
- 4 distinct areas of practice: NP, CNS, CNM, CRNA
- Mid-level provider (MLP) or non-physician provider
- Physician Assistant (PA)
- RN First Assistant-at-Surgery
- Family Nurse Practitioner

- “Disruptive Innovations”
- Funding Model: Managed care & reimbursement
- Moving towards National Registration
United Kingdom

- Not a protected title
- NHS
  - initiatives
- Emergency Nurse Practitioners
  - Minor injury & fracture management
- Joint arthroplasty
- Rheumatology
- Paediatric musculoskeletal disorders/DDH
- Osteoporosis
- Ottawa Ankle Rules
Australia

- Fragility Fracture
- Arthroplasty
- Trauma (includes paediatric)
- Fracture (non-surgical) in Out Patient Setting (includes paediatric)
- Rehabilitation (Rural)
- Ortho-geriatric Trauma
- Surgical Orthopaedic/Spinal/Neurology*
- Generalist Orthopaedic (includes paediatric)*

* denotes private practice setting
Discussion

• Personal
  – Serendipity to Transition
  – ‘Inbetween-ness’
  – Change Agent
  – Vision for the Future
  – Personal Qualities

• Patient
  – Connectedness
  – Patient Perception of Advanced Practice

• Professional
  – Policy Framework
  – Politics
  – ‘Economy of Care’
  – Workforce …
Framework to guide the analysis on advanced practice roles (De Geest et al. 2008)
Implications

• Practice
  – ‘Nurse-Led’ care
  – Clinical reasoning in context of Advance Practice Competencies (ICON)

• Research
  – Research Agenda
  – Maturity
Thankyou
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Email: anita.taylor@health.sa.gov.au