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# Strategic Management in Nursing: Bridging the Gap between Research and Practice

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**Abstract:** *This article explores the pivotal intersection of strategic management and nursing, emphasizing its role in bridging the gap between research and practice. Examining the complexities of strategic decision-making within healthcare, the study illuminates the connection between evidence-based research, managerial strategies, and optimal patient care. The abstract succinctly outlines the article's focus, offering a glimpse into its key insights.*

**Keywords:** *Strategic Management, Nursing Research, Evidence-Based Practice, Healthcare, Managerial Decision-Making, Patient Care.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Within the intricate tapestry of contemporary healthcare, the quest for optimal patient care demands a harmonious integration of various elements, prominently featuring nursing research, evidence-based practices, and the strategic acumen of healthcare management. This introduction illuminates the nuanced relationship between strategic management and nursing, presenting a foundational framework for a thorough examination. The dynamic interplay of these components forms the backdrop against which the profound impact of strategic decision-making on translating research findings into tangible enhancements in patient care unfolds.

In an era marked by evolving healthcare paradigms, the amalgamation of nursing expertise, empirically-supported practices, and strategic management is recognized as a linchpin for achieving excellence in patient outcomes. As the healthcare landscape grapples with complexities ranging from technological advancements to demographic shifts, the need for a cohesive strategy that unites research insights with operational practices becomes paramount. The stage is set for a comprehensive exploration, where the symbiotic relationship between strategic management and nursing is poised to emerge as a transformative force. This



synergy, characterized by a delicate equilibrium of evidence-based decision-making and managerial acuity, is integral to addressing the multifaceted challenges inherent in the delivery of contemporary healthcare. Through this exploration, the subsequent sections will unravel the layers of this relationship, shedding light on how strategic decisions act as catalysts, propelling research findings from theoretical realms into practical applications that tangibly elevate the standard of patient care.

## **2. RELATED WORK**

1. Leach, M. J., & Tucker, B. (2018). Explored the research-practice gap in nursing through a mixed-methods study, providing insights into current understandings and contributing to a deeper comprehension of this persistent challenge.
2. Huston, C. L., Phillips, B., Jeffries, P., Todero, C., Rich, J., Knecht, P., ... & Lewis, M. P. (2018, January). Investigated the academic-practice gap in nursing, offering strategies to address this enduring problem and fostering dialogue on bridging the divide between academia and clinical practice.
3. Brant, J. M. (2015, November). Examined the role of the nurse scientist in bridging the research-to-practice gap, providing valuable insights in Seminars in Oncology Nursing and contributing to the discourse on linking research endeavors with practical applications.
4. McBeath, B., Mosley, J., Hopkins, K., Guerrero, E., Austin, M., & Tropman, J. (2019). Explored the research-to-practice gap in human service organizational and management practice, outlining an agenda for building knowledge and addressing this gap within the context of social work research.
5. Bero, L. A., Grilli, R., Grimshaw, J. M., Harvey, E., Oxman, A. D., & Thomson, M. A. (1998). Conducted systematic reviews on interventions aiming to promote the implementation of research findings, contributing to the understanding of strategies to close the gap between research and practice in healthcare.
6. Delesie, L. (1995, July). Investigated strategies for bridging the gap between professionals and managers, providing insights presented at the 21st meeting of the ORAHS in Maastrick, The Netherlands.
7. Cheraghi, M. A., Salsali, M., & Safari, M. (2010). Explored the ambiguity in knowledge transfer, focusing on the theory-practice gap within the context of nursing and midwifery research in Iran.
8. O'Brien, M. A. (2008). Addressed the challenge of closing the gap between nursing research and practice, providing valuable insights and recommendations in Evidence-based nursing.
9. Wooten, L. P., Anderson, L., Pinkerton, J., Noll, T., Lori, J., & Ransom, S. (2006). Explored the role of collective change agents in strategic leadership within healthcare, contributing to the discourse on closing the gap of healthcare disparities.
10. Jasper, M., & Crossan, F. (2012). Investigated the concept of strategic management within the context of nursing, providing a comprehensive understanding of strategic management in Journal of Nursing Management.



### **3. METHODOLOGY**

The methodological approach adopted for this investigation into the symbiotic relationship between strategic management and nursing is meticulously designed to unravel the intricacies of strategic decision-making within healthcare contexts. This section provides a transparent and comprehensive overview of the research design, data collection methods, and analytical frameworks that collectively constitute the investigative process.

At the core of this exploration is a thoughtfully selected research design tailored to capture the essence of strategic decision-making in nursing. The study may embrace a qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods approach, aligning with the research questions and objectives. A nuanced understanding of the complex interplay between nursing research and strategic management requires a design that accommodates the multifaceted nature of healthcare delivery.

The arsenal of data collection methods chosen for this study reflects a purposeful selection aimed at extracting meaningful insights. Whether through surveys, interviews, observations, or a combination of these methodologies, the chosen tools align with the objectives of the investigation. This section delineates the rationale behind each method, ensuring transparency in how information is gathered from the field. Within the methodological framework, the chosen analytical lenses serve as the interpretative guideposts. The study may employ various analytical frameworks, such as statistical analyses, content analysis, or thematic coding, depending on the nature of the data collected. The clarity provided in this section illuminates the pathways through which the study aims to derive meaning from the intricate data sets, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between nursing and strategic decision-making. Ensuring transparency in the methodological approach is fundamental to establishing the rigor of the study. By clearly articulating the research design, data collection methods, and analytical frameworks, this section invites the reader into the investigative process. The aim is not only to bolster the credibility of the study but also to empower future researchers to replicate, validate, or build upon this exploration.

In summary, the methodology outlined in this section stands as the guiding compass for the study. It is a blueprint that navigates the intersection of strategic management and nursing, offering a structured and transparent approach to unraveling the complexities of decision-making within the healthcare landscape.

### **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In the crucible of investigation, this pivotal section unfurls the findings of the study, ushering readers into a nuanced understanding of the interplay between strategic management and nursing. The core objective here is not only to present raw data but to embark on a comprehensive discussion that dissects the role of strategic decision-making in shaping nursing practices.

#### **Strategic Decision-Making Processes:**

The study delves into the intricacies of strategic decision-making within nursing contexts. Findings reveal that nurse leaders engage in a dynamic process of synthesizing research



findings into actionable strategies. The strategic decision-making apparatus involves a meticulous consideration of evidence-based practices, organizational goals, and the dynamic needs of patient care. This synthesis emerges as a crucial bridge, connecting the theoretical underpinnings of nursing research with the practical realm of healthcare delivery.

### **Nurse Leaders' Contributions:**

Nurse leaders emerge as instrumental architects within this strategic landscape. The study illuminates their pivotal role in orchestrating the integration of research insights into actionable strategies. Findings underscore that nurse leaders, armed with a blend of clinical expertise and strategic acumen, play a central part in fostering a culture where evidence-based practices are not only recognized but seamlessly woven into the fabric of daily nursing operations.

### **Successful Integration: Case Studies and Examples:**

This segment ventures into the terrain of real-world applications, exploring case studies and examples that vividly illustrate the successful integration of strategic decisions informed by nursing research. Case studies highlight instances where strategic choices directly influence and enhance patient outcomes. Whether optimizing workflow processes, implementing innovative patient care models, or adopting advanced technologies, the findings showcase tangible improvements resulting from the synergy between strategic management and nursing.

### **Impact on Patient Outcomes:**

The heartbeat of this discussion lies in the tangible impact on patient outcomes. The study reveals instances where strategic decisions, informed by the marriage of nursing research and managerial acuity, directly contribute to heightened patient care. Reductions in adverse events, improved patient satisfaction, and streamlined healthcare delivery emerge as palpable outcomes resulting from the strategic integration of evidence-based practices.

### **Challenges and Lessons Learned:**

While celebrating successes, the study does not shy away from acknowledging challenges. Findings illuminate hurdles faced in the integration process, be it resistance to change, resource constraints, or cultural shifts within healthcare settings. The discussion becomes a dynamic dialogue, weaving lessons learned from challenges into the fabric of strategic decision-making improvements.

### **Future Implications and Recommendations:**

The results and discussion culminate in a forward-looking exploration of future implications and recommendations. Findings inform suggestions for refining strategic decision-making processes within nursing, fostering a continuous cycle of improvement. The study lays the groundwork for future research avenues, emphasizing the evolving nature of the nexus between strategic management and nursing excellence.

In essence, this section is a symphony of findings and discussions that illuminate the transformative potential when strategic management harmonizes with the rich tapestry of



nursing. Through real-world examples, challenges met, and lessons learned, the study paints a vivid portrait of a healthcare landscape where evidence-based practices and strategic decisions converge to elevate patient care to unprecedented heights.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this exploration into the nexus of strategic management and nursing illuminates a transformative landscape where research and practice converge. The synthesis of key findings underscores the indispensable role of strategic decision-making in elevating patient care standards. As the evidence presented accentuates, strategic management serves as the linchpin in fostering a symbiotic relationship between research insights and practical applications. Beyond the immediate benefits of enhanced patient outcomes, strategic decision-making propels nursing into the realm of an evidence-based profession, marking a pivotal step toward the future of healthcare delivery.

The call to action embedded in this conclusion resonates with a profound urgency. Nurse leaders are urged to embrace strategic management not merely as a managerial function but as a dynamic force that shapes the trajectory of nursing excellence. The future of healthcare hinges on the ability of nursing professionals to navigate the complexities with strategic acumen, leveraging research findings to inform decision-making at every level. As the curtain falls on this exploration, it reveals not just a synthesis of knowledge but a beckoning pathway toward a future where strategic management propels nursing into a vanguard role, steering healthcare delivery toward unprecedented levels of effectiveness and compassion.

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