What does EBP have to do with it?
EBP and the Magnet Model

By Amy Huett, RN, BSN

As we think about creating a Magnet environment that promotes professional excellence in nursing and excellence in patient care outcomes, it is important to realize that evidence-based practice (EBP) is a critical part of achieving excellence in patient care outcomes. Because of this, EBP is an important part of many components of the Magnet model including Exemplary Professional Practice and Empirical Quality Outcomes. To learn more about the Magnet Model, follow this link.

As we move toward creating a Magnet environment, understanding how EBP works as a part of this model becomes even more crucial. In case you need a reminder, EBP is using the best available evidence, your clinical expertise, and patient and family preferences to provide the best care to our patients and achieve the best possible outcomes. Many of us already use EBP in our practice every day. If you aren’t quite there yet, it means simply asking “is what I’m doing supported by the best possible evidence?” Get ready. Evidence-based practice is everybody’s business at Arkansas Children’s Hospital.

Ok, so what does EBP really have to do with Magnet recognition? The components of the Magnet model are subdivided into 14 Forces of Magnetism. Forces 5, 6, 9 and 11 are directly related to EBP. Forces 5, 9 and 11 are part of Exemplary Professional Practice, while Force 6 is part of Empirical Quality Outcomes. What this means is that you want to be the best nurse you can be and strive for this goal daily. Professional development is an important part of Exemplary Professional Practice. This can be achieved by taking a certification exam, going back to school, attending EBP courses, or even taking a moment to seek out the best evidence for a clinical problem. Modeling “exemplary professional practice” for other staff and our nursing students promotes this behavior and spreads the pride we have in nursing.

To think about the forces individually, let us start with Force 5, Professional Models of Care. This force describes the use of a professional model that gives nurses the responsibility and authority for the provision of patient care. Additionally, nurses are accountable for their own practice and are the coordinators of care. Evidence-based practice is the professional practice model at ACH. Remember that the components of EBP are using the best available evidence, your clinical expertise, and the patient and family preferences and values to
achieve the best possible outcomes. When you use EBP, you are taking responsibility and being accountable for your patient’s outcomes, which leads us to Force 9, Autonomy. This force focuses on nurses being permitted and expected to practice autonomously, consistent with our professional standards. Nurses should use their independent judgment within the context of a multidisciplinary approach to patient care. Force 11, Nurses as Teachers, states that nurses are expected to incorporate teaching into all aspects of their practice. The expectation is that the role of the nurse as a teacher gives the nurse a great deal of personal satisfaction. Much of our time is spent teaching, you may not even recognize how much teaching you do during the day. Maybe you have helped a family learn about their child’s medications, spent extra time with a nursing student, or shared new knowledge with a fellow team member. Finally, Quality of Care, Force 6, is part of the Empirical Quality Outcomes component of the Magnet model. This force states that nurses perceive they are providing high quality care to their patients, and that this is an organizational priority. We simply cannot provide high quality care without using EBP. By definition, high quality care is evidence-based.

Start thinking about using what you know about EBP and working together to create a Magnet environment that promotes professional excellence and excellent patient and family outcomes.