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University of Phoenix Material

Research Topic, Problem, and Question

Complete this worksheet to develop your research focus for this course. To help you better understand the main parts of research, this topic will be the basis for other assignments in the course.

Identify a Research Topic

Grove, Gray, and Polit (2015) define a research topic as “a concept or broad issue that is important to nursing, such as acute pain, chronic pain management, coping with illness, or health promotion” (p. 131).

Define your broad research topic in one to two sentences.

Reduce the risk for surgical site infections by evaluating the efficacy of the specific skin preps used for skin asepsis to determine which has better patient outcomes.

Identify your Research Problem

Grove, Gray, and Polit (2015) explain that a research problem “is an area in which there is a gap in the knowledge needed for nursing practice” (p.131).

Write your research problem and explain the significance and background in a 175- to 260-word narrative.

Preventing surgical site infections is a priority for any hospital facility because not only does it have a negative effect on patient outcomes, but it also can cause loss of revenue for facilities. Surgical site infections must be reported to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. If an infection is found to be related to a surgical procedure the hospital will not be reimbursed for any costs relating to the infection. Surgical site infections are one of the more common and costly hospital-acquired infections, and they can result in increased morbidity, length of hospital stay, re-admissions and health care costs (Pop-Vicas et al., 2020).

Preventing surgical site infections is a group effort between the preoperative department to identify comorbidities that increase risk for infection such as Type II Diabetes, to perioperative staff to ensure proper skin asepsis and proper antibiotic dosing, to recovery nursing staff to ensure proper wound care post operatively. In the United States, approximately 500,000 surgical site infections happen each year, with 3.7 million extra hospital days and more than \$1.6 billion in additional hospital costs per year (Privitera et al., 2017).

References

- Pop-Vicas, A., Stern, R., Osman, F., & Safdar, N. (2020). Variability in infection surveillance methods and impact on surgical site infection rates. *American journal of infection control*.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32622837/>.
- Privitera, G., Costa, A., Brusafiero, S., Chirletti, P., & Crossaso, P., Massimetti, G., Nespoli, A., Petrosillo, N., Pittiruti, M., Scoppettuolo, G., Tumietto, F., Viale, P., (2017). Skin antisepsis with chlorhexidine versus iodine for the prevention of surgical site infection: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *American journal of infection control*.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27838164/>.

Develop your Research Question

Research questions should be short, probing, and take variables into account (Grove, Gray & Polit, 2015). Although the PICOS format is not required, your question should address patient, intervention, comparisons, outcomes for practice, and study design.

Develop a one-sentence research question.

In surgical patients, how does Chlorhexidine based skin prep compare to Povidone-Betadine skin prep in development of surgical site infection over first 30 days post-operative?