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What are health professionals' intentions toward using products of research in clinical practice? A systematic review and narrative synthesis

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Background: Trying to get research and products of research into clinical practice is an enduring problem. A clearer picture is emerging as to how individual practitioners respond toward practical problems of changing clinical practice, but this does not include health professionals' intentions to use products of research and what influences their intentions.

Aim: Aim of this study is to explore health professionals' intentional behavior and what determines their intention to use products of research in clinical practice.

Design: Systematic review and narrative synthesis. Data sources: Five databases were searched systematically. This included BNI, HMIC, Psych INFO, CINHALL and MEDLINE; articles published in only English language were included.

Review Methods: PRISMA guidelines were used as a framework for structuring the review and methods of narrative synthesis to analyze study outcomes.

Results: 18 studies matched the final inclusion criteria. All studies used questionnaires to measure intention. Most studies involved nurses or physicians. Nurses' intentions were mostly influenced by their perceived ability to use guidelines in their practice. Physicians' intentions were often influenced by their perceptions of the usefulness and relevance of the guideline and peer pressure among the professional group. Practice habits, when added to intentional models were also predictive of intentional behavior. In studies that compared intentions with behavior, the level of intention often did not match self-report or actual behavior.

Biography

Ben Appleby is a NMC registered Nurse Tutor and Senior Lecturer at Birmingham City University and qualified from City University London and St Bartholomew's School of Nursing and Midwifery in September 1998, with a degree in Nursing and Human Science. He has gone on to practice in Cardiology, Coronary Care and Cardiac Rehabilitation and completed a Master's degree in Nursing Research in 2003 from Kings College London, and a PhD this year from University Birmingham. My main research interest is understanding intentional behaviour when implementing guidelines in clinical practice. Teaching practice focuses on evidence based practice, research methodology and acute nursing practice.

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