

# 33<sup>rd</sup> Euro Nursing & Medicare Summit

October 08-10, 2018 | Edinburgh, Scotland

## Building capacity for evidence-based practice: Understanding how licensed practical nurses (LPNs) source knowledge

Leah Adeline Phillips<sup>1</sup> and Melanie Neumeier<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta, Canada

<sup>2</sup>MacEwan University, Canada

**Statement of the Problem:** In Canada, all nurses are required to engage in evidence-based practice (EBP) as an entry-to-practice competency; however, there is little research that examines Licensed Practical Nurses' (LPNs') information seeking behaviors or preferred sources of knowledge to conduct EBP. Due to the differences in education and roles of LPNs and Registered Nurses (RNs), it is both necessary and important to gain an understanding of how LPNs utilize evidence in their unique nursing practice. The purpose of this study was to investigate how LPNs source knowledge for their nursing practice.

**Methods:** A descriptive, cross-sectional survey of LPNs from Alberta, Canada asked participants to rank sources of knowledge that inform their practice. Responses were correlated with age and years of practice. Analysis of variance was used to determine if there were significant mean differences between average scores and place of employment.

**Results:** LPN participants used similar sources of knowledge as RNs. The top source of knowledge for both RNs and LPNs was the information they learn about each individual client and the least utilized sources of knowledge were articles published in nursing, medical, and research journals, tradition, and popular media. This finding is consistent with previous studies on RNs that found nurses do not often access current research evidence to inform their practice.

**Conclusion:** Since relatively few LPNs access nursing and research journals, it is important to tailor EBP education information to the workplace context. Future avenues of research might explore the potential of using in-services and webinars to disseminate information and skills training on EBP to the LPNs, as this was a popular source of practice knowledge.