The Integrative Review Process: Yes, You Can!

...Without dropping down a rabbit hole!

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**Symposium Goals & Objectives**

- **GOALS:** Provide the participant with knowledge and tools necessary to conduct & write an integrative review. Various skill sets and related tools will be discussed in depth. Seminar components include:

- **OBJECTIVES:** At the end of this symposium, the participant will be able to:
  - Discuss three strategies to find and gather relevant evidence for an integrative review
  - Identify two components used to determine the quality of the evidence for an integrative review
  - **NOT drop down any rabbit holes while accomplishing the above!**
The Evidence Journey

• FAQs: What, Where, and How
• Appraising & Grading: Tools of the Trade
• Final Synthesis: Now What?
Types of Evidence Reviews

• **Narrative or Literature Review:** Critical research summary on a topic of interest, often to put a research problem into context. Captures a “snapshot” of the clinical problem or issue.

• **Integrative Review:** A review via a systematic approach that uses a detailed search strategy to find relevant evidence to answer a targeted clinical question. Evidence can come from RCTs, observational studies, qualitative research, clinical experts, and other types of evidence. Does not use summary statistics.

• **Systematic Review:** Comprehensive search strategies and rigorous research appraisal methods surrounding a clinical issue or question. Evidence is primarily based upon RCTs. Used to summarize, appraise, & communicate contradictory results or unmanageable amounts of research.
Why do an Integrative Review?

- Cornerstone of Evidence-Based (EB) Practice
- Ensures integration of research evidence into nursing practice
- Answers questions concerning current nursing and patient care practices
  - Critical tool providing the foundation for
    - EB nursing interventions
    - EB clinical practice guidelines
Integrative Review

Advantages

• Presents varied perspectives
• Combines diverse methodologies to create a more well-rounded evidence review
  – Experimental
  – Non-experimental
  – Qualitative
  – Disparate studies
• Depth and breadth of evidence without
  – Over-emphasizing RCTs
  – Overvaluing hierarchies of evidence
• Enhanced data collections strategies
Integrative Review

Disadvantages

• Combining diverse methodologies is a complex process & may contribute to:
  – Lack of rigor
  – Inaccuracies
  – Bias

• Poorly formulated methods of:
  – Analysis
  – Synthesis
  – Conclusion drawing

What is Needed

• Issues related to combining empirical and theoretical reports

• May do an incomplete synthesis

What is Needed

• Systematic methods to review the evidence

• Bias control