



YEAR ONE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S SCHOOL OF NURSING'S MULTI-YEAR EFFORT TO ADVANCE IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE EDUCATION

Debra Bingham, DrPH, RN, FAAN

There is an urgent need to identify more effective ways to implement evidence-based care that will improve health care structures, processes, and outcomes. The need for health care improvements has increased not decreased over time. Recognizing and acknowledging that evidence-based care is needed and that making improvements in health care is a complex and dynamic process is not enough. Faculty, students, and practitioners need knowledge about Implementation Science (IS) theories and frameworks and Quality Improvement (QI) models and tools so they are better prepared to develop and implement more effective and impactful quality improvement projects.

Registered Nurses (RNs) describe experiencing moral distress and burnout when they work in health care organizations where the quality of care is poor and ongoing, associated concerns about patient safety. Moral distress leads RNs to feel helpless and burned out, and in extreme situations, to leave the profession. Expanding IS expertise is a needed strategy to support and retain RNs in practice settings by reducing their frustration of knowing changes are needed, but not knowing where to begin or how to make these needed changes. Patients also benefit when nurses are effective in their efforts to improve health care quality and safety.

The Advancing Implementation Science Education (AdvISE) Project is designed to expand faculty IS and QI knowledge and skills so they effectively guide and educate Doctor of Nursing (DNP) students on how to develop, implement, and evaluate QI initiatives. Effective and impactful DNP QI projects also enhance collaboration among the faculty, students, practicing RNs, and clinical site leaders. IS and QI expertise are needed to increase evidence-based practices which improves the quality and safety of health care and reduces moral distress and burnout among RNs.

The three-year AdvISE project was launched at the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) in order to increase IS and QI expertise among RNs. IS expertise is a necessary foundation to expanding the effectiveness and impact of QI Projects. The three major activities of the AdvISE Project are:

- 1) Perform a needs assessment.
- 2) Identify best practices for expanding IS and QI expertise.
- 3) Develop and implement IS and QI professional development education.

The AdvISE project components has implications for how all schools of nursing incorporate IS and QI into curricula.

FINDINGS: The AdvISE grant is in year one. The faculty and student survey data collection has been completed. Data from these surveys will be reported

IMPLICATIONS FOR NURSING FACULTY AND STUDENTS: There is national consensus that DNPs should graduate with expertise in IS and QI. Expanding the IS and QI competencies of nursing faculty is an up-stream approach to expanding the utilization of IS research and ultimately reducing the 17-year lag time between the translation of research into practice. This presentation will discuss the key inputs, activities, and outputs of the UMSON's AdvISE project. The UMSON initiative has implications for faculty and students at other schools of nursing.