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Research priorities for respiratory nursing: A UK-wide Delphi study.

Nursing care, Education, Health policy

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Introduction

Respiratory nurses offer an important contribution to the delivery of respiratory healthcare, but there is a dearth of nurse-led, nurse-focused published research.

Aim

To identify research priorities for respiratory nursing to inform a national research strategy for the Association of Respiratory Nurse Specialists (ARNS).

Methods

A modified Delphi study utilising 3 rounds of an online survey with respiratory nurses. Developed from a literature review Round 1 had 78 items in 16 topics. Respondents suggested other items which were content analysed to inform Round 2. The study information sheet and survey link were sent by email to members of ARNS and other respiratory organisations. Respondents rated all items and ranked the topics in all rounds (R1 n=185, R2 n=95, R3 n=85). To ensure rigour, each round had an explicit focus, with pre-determined criteria for consensus (70%). Ethical approval was granted by Edge Hill University.

Findings

The top priority for each topic area, along with the overall research priority for respiratory nursing were identified. The top five ranked priorities were:

1. Smoking behaviours in teenagers/children/adults, with an emphasis on e-cigarettes
2. Patient understanding of asthma control

3. Inhaler techniques
4. Prevention of exacerbations
5. Symptom management

Conclusion

This is the first UK study to identify research priorities for respiratory nursing, with potential international significance. Findings will serve to inform the ARNS research strategy and provide direction for those undertaking research in these areas, empowering and providing opportunities for nurses to lead research that will enhance future respiratory care delivered to patients and their carers.