Factors influencing current Evidence-Based Practice in Allied Health & Community Services

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Background: Research is an essential component of evidence-based practice. Development of strategies to build clinicians’ research capacity first requires establishment of their capacity.

Aim: identify the factors influencing current Evidence-Based Practice across Allied Health and Community Services (AH&CS) to inform the development of a hospital Evidence-Based Practice Roadmap.

Method: AH&CS clinicians and managers were invited to participate in a survey using visual analogue scales and free text responses about the influence of evidence-based practice components: research evidence, clinical expertise, patient values, and organisational expectations, on clinical practice.

Respondents: clinicians n = 148, managers n = 12

Results: Factors influencing clinical practice (0=not at all, 10=completely)

Clinicians’ Perspectives on Factors Influencing Clinical Practice

Types of EBP activities

- Clinical content 22%
- Leadership skills 17%
- Career development content 14%
- Research Skills 19%
- Communication skills 17%
- Other content 11%

Average Hours per Day Dedicated Research & Project time

- Project
- Research

Significance of findings to allied health:
Allied Health clinicians report that all components of evidence-based practice influence their clinical practice and they engage with a range of different evidence-based practice activities. However Grade 1 and 2 clinicians get relatively little time to develop their project and research skills.

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