

CHAPTER 5. RESEARCH IN NURSING SERVICE

5.01 STATEMENT OF POLICY

Research is basic to all components of nursing practice: clinical practice, administration and education. The objectives of the research program within Nursing Service will be as follows; (a) to generate new knowledge about patient care and the delivery system, and (b) to improve utilization of research findings.

5.02 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Nursing Service will promote a climate receptive to research activities. Nurses will apply appropriate research findings to their practice, and identify areas of practice that need to be studied. Nurses will be encouraged to initiate activities directed toward obtaining new knowledge and/or validating existing nursing practices. Encouragement will include assistance in obtaining consultation, in mobilizing resources, and in scheduling time needed to conduct research. Nurses who conduct research are expected to publish their findings. Nursing research will be carried out in accordance with all of the provisions of established VA policy and local Research and Development procedures.

5.03 SCOPE

The scope of research activities in nursing includes:

- a. Studies related to current or proposed practices or procedures in clinical nursing, administration or education.
- b. Studies related to patients' nursing needs, health or illness.
- c. Studies to validate the findings from previous nursing studies.
- d. Studies that are interdisciplinary or meet the criteria for cooperative/collaborative research, and which have direct implication for nursing.
- e. Studies by nursing students as part of their educational program.

5.04 ROLE EXPECTATIONS

- a. All nurses will apply appropriate and current research findings to their practice.
- b. Nurses in clinical, administrative, and educational leadership positions will:
 - (1) Obtain resources and consultations to assist nursing staff in developing scientifically meritorious research focused on the veteran patient and/or delivery system.
 - (2) Develop workshops, inservice education, etc., on utilization of current research findings.
- c. Nurses whose major responsibility is the research program in Nursing Service will:
 - (1) Develop scientifically meritorious research focused on the veteran patient and/or the system for delivering care.

- (2) Explore a collaborative approach to conducting research.
- (3) Expand research proposals to involve more than one VA medical center when appropriate.
- (4) Consult with other nurses to increase the number of proposals submitted and resubmitted for merit review.
- (5) Strengthen collaborative relationships with the scientific community.
- (6) Consult with other nurses on the scientific merit of studies whose findings might be used in practice.
- (7) Promote utilization of appropriate research findings.

5.05 MONITORING RESEARCH WITHIN NURSING SERVICE

The Chief, Nursing Service, will evaluate annually the quality and number of research studies being conducted by members of Nursing Service. The mechanism for reporting this evaluation will be the annual report. VA Central Office Nursing Service annually will examine and compare data from the annual reports and from RDIS (Research and Development Information System) to determine trends in the quality and quantity of research conducted by VA nurses.