

Abstract

Building an Inter-Organizational Nursing Research Network Through Team-Building Strategies to Foster Healthcare Innovation

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Introduction. The increasing clinical and organizational complexity of healthcare systems requires integrated, evidence-based models of care capable of effectively connecting hospitals, community settings, and the academic sector. Despite the high level of professional expertise, nursing research often remains fragmented, limiting the translation of evidence into clinical practice. Inter-organizational research networks supported by structured team-building strategies may represent a viable response to this challenge and foster innovation in healthcare.

Methods. The study describes an implementation and organizational improvement project with a descriptive observational design, aimed at developing an inter-organizational and academic nursing research network involving a territorial healthcare authority, a Tuscan university hospital trust, and a university. A structured team-building approach is integrated with research governance mechanisms, training activities on Evidence-Based Practice, and the activation of multiprofessional working groups. A shared Scientific Committee guides research priorities, methodological quality, and integration with educational pathways. Implementation is monitored through process and outcome indicators.

Results. The project has initiated the development of an inter-organizational nursing research network that is currently in a growth phase. Preliminary observations and implementation objectives suggest a progressive strengthening of collaboration between clinical and academic settings, as well as a potential increase in professionals' engagement in research activities and Evidence-Based Practice. The activation of shared research projects and the alignment of care needs, research priorities, and educational pathways are currently underway.

Discussion. The experience described suggests that team-building strategies may represent a useful lever to support the development of inter-organizational nursing research networks and to promote knowledge translation processes. Although still in the implementation phase, this approach appears promising in reducing the fragmentation of research initiatives and in supporting clinical and organizational innovation, with potential implications for nursing-sensitive outcomes, quality of care, and the sustainability of the healthcare system.

Keywords: Nursing Leadership, Nursing Research, Team-Building Strategies, Evidence-Based Practice, Knowledge Translation

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