ABSTRACT:

STREAM: **EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE – MEASURING THE VALUE**

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Reflective journaling methodology used to evaluate Nurses' Experience Using Mobile Information Technology to Access and Use Research Evidence

Background and aim:

There are many data collection techniques that researchers can use to gather data in their studies. This paper will focus on the method of reflective journaling to evaluate nurses' use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) or Tablet Personal Computers (PCs) for access to evidence based practice resources. Illustrations of reflective journaling will be evaluated through the study: *Evaluation of Mobile Information Technology to Improve Nurses' Access to and Use of Research Evidence (EMIT).*

Data and methods:

The EMIT study participants included Registered Nurses and Registered Practical Nurses working in acute care hospitals, long-term care, home care organizations. They were asked to document their experience using a PDA or tablet PC supported information resources in a semi-structured reflective journal over three times.

Results:

Reflective journals revealed that nurses were typically engaged in clinical, data collection, educational and administrative tasks or care-giving activities when using devices. Overall, the participants indicated that consistent working wireless access; Canadian resources; lighter devices; access to online textbooks; batteries that stores more energy; readable information for clients; and develop skill levels to use device would make the electronic resources more applicable, useful or of value to the nurses.

Conclusion:

Reflective journaling as a methodology is beneficial to use as a data collection tool because it can uncover nurses' understanding and experiences. Reflective journaling can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions through a qualitative means. It is helpful for generating an understanding of nurses' use of devices to access evidence based practice resources.

BIO:

Kristine Newman is presently a PhD Nursing Science student at the University of Toronto working with Dr. Diane Doran. Her background is in professional practice clinical education, rehabilitation nursing and she currently holds her CNA certification in Rehabilitation Nursing. Kristine also has interests in nursing informatics and knowledge translation.