

Collaboration and consultation: enhancing clinical care

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It is well recognised that collaboration in any context is essential to successfully realise identified goals for any initiatives undertaken. Collaborative processes usually involve two or more people who aim to achieve a better result than if they worked alone. Famously, the following quote on collaboration “Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.” has been attributed to both Henry Ford (1863-1947) and Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909)¹.

Inherent to collaboration are the establishment of relationships and interactions within and between groups. In addition, and integral to these processes, is consultation whereby the opinions or guidance of others are sought to debate and strategise all aspects of the topic under discussion.

There are many exemplars of how Ford’s and Hale’s quote in conjunction with consultative processes could be applied to initiatives and projects discussed within this issue of the Journal. These exemplars have each uniquely enhanced approaches to or pathways to clinical care thereby improving patient, clinical and clinician, and health professional / organisational outcomes.

The message from our President and President-Elect identifies how the WCET® is strategically engaging with members and like professional organisations to collaborate in achieving mutual goals.

Down G et al in addressing the question of how best to reduce the risk of peristomal skin complications (PSCs) describe how a modified Delphi consensus-building process was used to consult stomal therapy nurses internationally to seek their opinion on

associated PSC risk factors. Subsequent agreement on a PSC risk factor model will facilitate earlier recognition and management of PSCs.

The importance of collaboration, consultation and respectful communication to assist intravenous drug users in the community to avoid or seek earlier medical treatment for managing resultant skin and soft tissue abscesses are discussed by Kuhnke et al. This process allowed participants to make recommendations on minimising abscess formation, improving self-care treatments and access to healthcare services.

Prevention of heel pressure injuries remains a clinical challenge. Murooka and Ishii recruited 26 healthy individuals to investigate incremental bed head elevation and resultant changes in heel pressures using a three-axis tactile sensor. The implications for nursing practice are discussed.

Research is another example of the ethos of Ford’s and Hale’s quote. Haesler and Carville in synthesising evidence for using traditional hypochlorite solutions for reducing wound infection or improving wound healing recommend they may be used to manage infected wounds in low resource settings where less cytotoxic antiseptic solutions are not accessible.

The merits of collaborative consultative practice in enhancing clinical care are clearly evident.

Best wishes to you all, Jenny.

REFERENCE

1. Edward Everett Hale Quotes. (n.d.). BrainyQuote.com. Retrieved March 7, 2023, from BrainyQuote.com Web site: https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/edward_everett_hale_121997

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