

Writing Assignment/Project for NUR 3165 Nursing Research

Problem

You are a staff nurse on an oncology unit. A significant number of the patients are admitted for treatment of lung cancer. Although advances in chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy have led to a steady increase in cancer survival, the outlook for the great majority of people with lung cancer remains poor. During the last few months of their lives, the patients often undergo a range of invasive and/or toxic therapies that may include chemotherapy, radiotherapy or both. During this difficult time, the general health of the patient declines both as a consequence of the illness itself and because of side effects from the treatments they receive. In addition to physical symptoms, the patients face a depressing and anxiety-provoking future, an outlook that can have a devastating effect on their psychological and emotional health as well as that of their families, friends and caretakers.

At a recent staff meeting, the nurses discussed the high prevalence of treatment-related side effects as well as the symptoms of disease progression in patients with lung cancer that often did not respond to conventional pharmacological therapies. The charge nurse suggested the nursing staff develop a holistic package of palliative and supportive care measures that could minimize symptom distress and improve quality of life for patients with lung cancer. She asked for volunteers to investigate which palliative nursing interventions for patients with lung cancer are supported by research evidence and present the results in a PowerPoint presentation to fellow nurses at the next staff meeting.

You volunteer to be on the committee. The five members of your committee are charged to develop a research question, conduct a search of the literature, critique relevant studies, and synthesize the findings for presentation to the staff.

Assignment

- 1. Research Article Critique:** You will be assigned to a team of 5 students that will synthesize the research on a research question that addresses the nursing problem you have been given. The first week of class you will be assigned a research article on a quantitative study published in a peer-reviewed journal that is relevant to the nursing problem for your team. The critique will be a work in progress throughout the first part of the course. Each week you will critique a section of the article (critique piece) and receive feedback from fellow team members and the instructor. A rubric is provided to guide your writing of the critique. The final critique will be submitted to Turnitin.
- 2. Critique Pieces:** Each week you will critique a designated section of your assigned article (critique piece) that corresponds to the section of the research report addressed in the week's module. You will post your critique piece post on your team page (wiki-type page) and provide feedback on the critique pieces of your team members. Feedback should be meaningful and address those criteria described in the Critique Rubric. Six critique pieces.
 - Critique Piece 1:** Title and abstract
 - Critique Piece 2:** Research problem, research question/objective/purpose, hypothesis and theoretical framework
 - Critique Piece 3:** Research design
 - Critique Piece 4:** Sample, setting and ethical considerations
 - Critique Piece 5:** Measurement and data collection
 - Critique Piece 6:** Interpretation of finding and discussion
- 3. Final Project:** Your team will synthesize the findings from all your critiques in order to make evidence-based recommendations and suggest future research on the research question. This project will be done as a PowerPoint Presentation according the Final Project Rubric. This is a team assignment and all team members earn the same grade. Final Projects will be posted in the Final Project Showcase. Teams will vote for the best Final Project. Best project earns 2 bonus point.