This is a Brief Online Learning Tutorial (or BOLT) brought to you by the LISTEN project, a HRSA funded project focusing on improving the information literacy competencies of nursing students and professional nurses.
Nurses must use all types of information when providing patient care. Therefore, information literacy skills are valuable in the clinical setting. This BOLT will describe how information literacy can be used in the patient care setting.
The LISTEN Project defines information literacy as the ability to recognize you need information, the ability to seek, access, and evaluate information, and the ability to apply the new information.
Nurses must maintain professional credibility. In order to do this there are several things nurses must commit to doing throughout their career.
It is important that nurses keep current with published literature, especially in their specialty area. This may be in the form of journal articles, textbooks, or online information. In order to do this you will have to know how to seek and access credible information.
Once you find information that is helpful to you in practice you may wish to collect it and save it. Nurses should develop and maintain a list of sources or references that are helpful. These resources may be focused on your specialty area or on a specific topic of interest. Be sure that you have evaluated your information.
In addition, nurses need to meet with colleagues to collaborate and network and to discuss specific practice issues. You may wish to disseminate findings from your research, whether it is a literature review on best practices or a study with human subjects. You may choose to apply these new findings in your practice if it is appropriate.
The combination of these steps are all a part of the information literacy process. The more you learn about and practice your information literacy skills the more your patients, your organization, and you will benefit.
Continue to visit the LISTEN website, at listenuphealth.org, for more helpful tips on using technology and seeking, evaluating, and applying information in nursing to support evidence-based nursing practice.
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