

## **Integrative Review: Effect of Nurse-Physician Collaboration on Patient Outcomes**

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this poster presentation is to discuss the influence of nurse-physician collaboration on positive patient outcomes by using an integrative review of research articles.

**Method:** An exhaustive on-line literature search was conducted using the following databases: Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Academic Search Elite, and Health Source: Nursing/Academic Version. Medline, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, and Dissertation Outlines were also searched using selected keywords. The searches focused on research studies that addressed the relationship between nurse-physician collaboration and patient outcomes. Search results netted six focused studies that were then reviewed.

**Findings:** Five of six studies supported a relationship between nurse-physician collaboration and patient outcomes. These outcomes may be broadly grouped into four key areas: mortality rates, readmission rates, length of stay, and cost of treatment. Although constructed using similar design and sample type, one study failed to support any relationship between the two variables. Upon analytic review, major flaws in the research design were present that may have contaminated the evidence from this study.

**Discussion:** Although the studies reviewed displayed impressive support for the relationship between the identified variables, the applicability of the resulting data, at the bedside level, remains elusive. While significant to ultimate morbidity/mortality of patients as well as the financial viability of organizations, the outcome variables previously studied have not been translated into measurable patient perceived outcomes. Clearly, additional studies in this realm are needed to evaluate evidence of the practical utility of collaboration as an influential factor in specific patient-perceived outcomes, such as pain management.