

ALSN Continues the Conversation

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ALSN Continues the Conversation Guide

[Implementation Science for the Practice-Oriented Nurse Leader](#)

[Nelson-Brantley, H.V., & Chipps, E. *Nurs Adm Q.* 2023;47\(2\):107-117.](#)

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Abstract

Senior nurse leaders are accountable for improving patient outcomes efficiently and cost effectively. Nurse leaders often find heterogeneous patient outcomes across comparable nursing units in the same enterprise, presenting a challenge for nurse leaders tasked with making systemwide quality improvements. Implementation science (IS) offers a promising new approach to guide nurse leaders in understanding why certain implementation efforts meet with success or failure and the barriers faced in making practice changes. Knowledge of IS builds upon evidenced based practice and quality improvement knowledge, adding to the armamentarium of tools at nurse leaders' disposal for improving nursing and patient outcomes. In this article, we demystify IS, differentiate it from evidence-based practice and quality improvement, describe IS concepts every nurse leader should be familiar with, and outline nurse leaders' role in building IS in their organizations.

Discussion Questions:

1. Evidence-based practice, quality improvement and implementation science are core elements of improving health care delivery and health outcomes. Discuss the relationship among each of these core elements.
2. Identify a recent EBP project that was implemented into practice in your organization or unit. Critique the implementation of the project in relation to IS actions outlined by the author on page 111 of the article. Critique your organization's / unit's implementation strategy identifying your strengths, weaknesses, and how you could improve moving forward.
3. Discuss the role of nursing leadership(at all levels) in building implementation science capacity within an organization. What areas could be strengthened in your organization/unit?