



Sharing the Wisdom of Nursing by Writing for Publication

RAYMOND J. BINGHAM

All sorrows can be borne, if you put them into a story. —Isak Dinesen

As nurses, we love to tell stories. Every progress note in a chart, every shift report, every conversation in the cafeteria or nurse's lounge discussing a special clinical case provides the chance to develop and share a special story. The human encounters of nursing care produce ample dramatic material. When clinical nurses chart their nursing actions or pass this information along

in rounds, they tell a story that provides crucial information. If they then describe the details of a certain clinical encounter or event in an article for publication, they broaden the reach of their nursing wisdom and practice (Heinrich, 2009). Similarly, advanced practice nurses and nurse researchers write for publication so that they can communicate to the outside world any new knowledge gained through an innovation on the hospital unit or in the research lab. These are noteworthy advances, and telling these stories

Abstract Nurses share their experiences, wisdom and insights through storytelling. Writing these stories for publication can serve to extend the reach of nursing practice. Writing for publication is a skill that all nurses can develop. It could be considered a professional obligation, as well as an act of generosity. The process of writing involves selecting a topic, working through an initial draft, reviewing, revising and finally submitting for publication. For the nursing profession to contribute fully to the advancement of health care, nurses need to present themselves as competent, thoughtful leaders able to express themselves clearly and effectively. Writing for publication helps accomplish this goal. DOI: 10.1111/j.1751-486X.12166

Keywords nursing knowledge | nursing practice | scholarship | writing for publication



allows this information to reach others who may also benefit.

This article is a complement to an earlier article on sharing knowledge through the development of abstracts and posters (Bingham, 2013); it explores ways to communicate in writing, primarily through publication in peer-reviewed journals or other professional outlets. Writing for publica-

You likely learned the basic principles of language by studying the mechanics of writing and communication in school; preparing a publishable manuscript builds on this skill set

tion may sound like a daunting task, but once you start I believe you'll find it an exciting and rewarding endeavor. And it's a simple extension of what you do as a nurse every day—share stories.

Why Write?

I have a special fondness for the stories of nurses, as they are what drew me to the profession. While working as a hospital attendant in college, I learned the roles that nurses play when I perused the nursing journals lying around the different units and read narratives and case studies that caught my eye. On the job, I began

to observe what nurses do in a different light. I thought I enjoyed science, but I learned that I was attracted to the idea of applying the concepts of chemistry, physics, physiology, psychology and biology through the knowledge and art of nursing, helping people in need.

Venetta Masson (2005), a nursing and writing colleague, tells of how the everyday stories of nurses helped her to “understand how other nurses thought about their work and developed professionally ... nurse writers use poetry, essay, and memoir to ... enlarge our understanding of the work we have chosen—and of ourselves” (p. 78).

You likely learned the basic principles of language by studying the mechanics of writing and communication in school; preparing a publishable manuscript builds on this skill set. It requires a willingness to dig deeper, to explore yourself and express what you believe is novel and noteworthy. According to Morton (2013a), nurses have an obligation to convey the knowledge and expertise we gain through our nursing experiences, in order to share insights, disseminate solutions to clinical problems and advance patient care. In this vein, writing and publishing serve as acts of professional responsibility and generosity (Heinrich, 2009).

How to Write

I enjoy writing. I can't tell you how to write. I don't know anyone who can. I've read books,



Raymond J. Bingham, MSN, RNC, is a science writer in Montgomery Village, MD. The author reports no conflicts of interest or relevant financial relationships. Address correspondence to: rjbrnc@comcast.net.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/2634372>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/2634372>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)