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**Journal Clubs Provide the Perfect Duet:
A Crescendo of Staff Development and A Prelude to Improved Patient Care**

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Topic: In the past, journal clubs were used to teach nurses about the research process and increase basic nursing knowledge. Currently, the focus of journal clubs is to use evidence-based research to provide nurses with the tools to apply research findings to patient care.

Description: Fifteen Journal Clubs were presented by staff nurses over 15 months; 13 of the articles were ANCC-CNE approved; all were from peer-reviewed journals. The presenters were primarily responsible for initiating policy, procedure, protocol changes and educating their peers with their educator as mentor.

Results and Outcomes: Two Journal Clubs that addressed patient perspectives and staff support regarding interdialytic fluid limitation resulted in creation and use of a patient education tool for managing fluids. Two articles on improving IV iron and anemia management in hemodialysis led to revision of the anemia management protocol resulting in more aggressive iron use, more stable control of the patients' anemia and decreased ESA usage.

Two articles were presented on constant site cannulation (buttonhole technique) which led nurses in Home and Chronic units to promote use of the technique, revise the cannulation procedure and create a comprehensive access assessment tool.

Three Journal Club presentations on prevention of infection in HD access resulted in small modifications in our access procedures which allowed maintenance of a very low infection rate.

A case study addressing mysterious PTH values in an HD patient after parathyroidectomy directly related to two of our patients and resulted in the requirement of assessment and documentation of placement of reserved parathyroid tissue before drawing PTH levels. This resulted in more consistent, accurate test results.

Implications: To promote evidence-based practice, it is imperative that nurses be empowered to find, present and use evidence to improve the care they provide to their patients. Journal Clubs offer an optimal method for accomplishing this goal as well as providing a forum for collaboration with colleagues that 'ends on a high note' for everyone.

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