Guideline Search Strategy

1. Structured Website Search

A member of the RNAO guideline development team (project coordinator) searched an established list of websites for guidelines.

Guidelines were selected based on the following criteria:

- Focus on topic of transitions in care (terms include: care transitions, discharge planning, handovers, hospital to home and community and residential, group home, other transitional facilities such as mental health, rehabilitation, long-term care, transitions) which includes:
  - Assessment
  - Management
  - Client safety and transitions
  - Education or training requirements for nurses
  - Organizational and health-care system responsibilities or support for transitions
- Published no earlier than January, 2002
- Published in English, national and international in scope
- Accessible for retrieval

Websites Searched:

Abstracts for Cochrane Reviews
AHRQ: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
AHFMR Health Technology Assessment Publications
Bandolier Journal
BC Office of Health Technology Assessment
British Columbia Council on Clinical Practice Guidelines
British Columbia Office of Health Technology Assessment
Canadian Cochrane Centre
Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA)
Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
Canadian Medical Association Infobase: Clinical Practice Guidelines
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Centre for Evidence-Based Mental Health
Centre for Evidence-Based Pharmacotherapy
Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, York University

Best Practice Guidelines - www.RNAO.ca
Clinical Evidence
Evidence-based On-Call
Guidelines Advisory Committee
Guidelines International Network
Health Services/Technology Assessment Texts (HSTAT)
Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement
Joanna Briggs Institute for Evidence Based Nursing & Midwifery (Australia)
Medic8
Monash University Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
National Health Service (NHS) Centre for Reviews and Dissemination
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)
National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) & Health Technology Assessment Program
New Zealand Guidelines Group
Nursing & Midwifery Practice Development Unit
Periodic Task Force on Preventive Health Care
Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario, Nursing Best Practice Guidelines
Royal College of General Practitioners
Royal College of Nursing
Royal College of Physicians London (RCPL)
Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)
SUMSearch 2
The Physiotherapy Evidence Database (PEDro)
The Qualitative Report
The Sarah Cole Hirsh Institute for Best Nursing Practices Based on Evidence
TRIP Database
University of California, San Francisco
Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library

2. Hand Search:

RNAO expert panel members were asked to review personal libraries to identify and submit potentially relevant guidelines. Guidelines submitted for consideration by RNAO expert panel members were integrated into the retrieved list of guidelines if they had not been identified by the on-line guideline search and met the inclusion criteria.

Systematic Review Search Search Strategy

Concurrent with the review of existing guidelines, a systematic review for recent literature relevant to the scope of the guideline was conducted by a health sciences librarian.
**Databases Searched:** Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL), Cochrane Controlled Trials (CT), Cochrane Systematic Reviews (SR), Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE), Embase, ERIC, Medline and PsycINFO.

**Inclusion Criteria:**

(Initial):

Guidelines were selected based on the following criteria:
- Focus on topic of transitions in care (terms include: care transitions, discharge planning, handovers, hospital to home and community and residential, group home, other transitional facilities such as mental health, rehabilitation, long-term care, transitions) which includes:
  - Assessment
  - Management
  - Client safety and transitions
  - Education or training requirements for nurses
  - Organizational and health-care system responsibilities or support for transitions
- Published no earlier than January, 2002
- Published in English, national and international in scope
- Accessible for retrieval
- Any age
- Any health setting or sector
- Interdisciplinary relevance
- Systematic reviews, RCTs, meta-analysis, higher quality qualitative and quantitative research studies.

(Subsequent*):
- As per initial inclusion criteria with following exceptions:
  - Limited to meta-analysis, systematic reviews, integrative reviews, randomized controlled trials and qualitative evidence synthesis; and
  - Within the scope of nursing practice (registered nurses and registered practical nurses).

*Note: Due to the volume of research based on the initial inclusion criteria and subsequent search inclusion criteria for study methodology was changed.

**Exclusion Criteria:**

- Dissertations, research protocols, commentaries / letters to the editor,
Search Terms

Below are condensed search strategies used for each research question in MEDLINE. Comparable terms were used in all other databases searched.

Question 1: What are the most effective assessment and management strategies to ensure continuity of care and safe optimal client outcomes during care transitions?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Limits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any patient, client, person, individual, consumer, family, caregiver undergoing care transition</td>
<td>Continuity of Patient Care/ Patient Transfer/ Patient Discharge/ Patient Readmission/ transition* adj care; service/discharg* adj2 plan*/ &quot;Outcome and Process Assessment (Health Care)&quot;/ Needs Assessment/ Risk Assessment/ Geriatric Assessment/ Nursing Assessment/ Social Adjustment/ &quot;Patient Acceptance of Health Care&quot;/ Patient Care/ Patient Care Planning/ Patient Care Management/ Patient Education as Topic/ Mass Screening/ Safety/Patient Safety/ Safety Management/ Quality Indicators, Health Care manag*; assess*; re reassess* or re-assess*; screen*; evaluate*; measure*; monitor*.mp.</td>
<td>Humans, English Language and yr=&quot;2002-2012&quot; Nursing Nurses Nursing Staff Nursing, Practical Nurse's Role Nurse-Patient Relations nurs*.mp. nurs*.jn. nu.fs.</td>
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Question 2: What safety and monitoring strategies should be considered to ensure continuity of care and safe optimal client outcomes during care transitions?

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Question 3: What educational supports do nurses and other health-care providers require to effectively assess and manage client care transitions?
Question 4. What organizational characteristics support nurses and other health-care providers to effectively assess and manage client care transitions?

**Hand Search**
RNAO expert panel members were asked to review personal libraries to identify key articles not found through the above search strategies. Articles identified by RNAO expert panel members were included in the search results if two nursing research associates independently determined the articles had not been identified by the literature search and met the inclusion criteria.