This Heads UP is unbelievable and time-sensitive. The ANA seeks comment on the draft of the update of Principles for Delegation by Registered Nurses to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel. I read the draft, found weak critical thinking (CT) content, and then checked the references. I was so shocked that my jaw dropped. The only CT citation comes from an eHow.com article written by someone who's a career writer whose "interests are eclectic; ranging from pet care to medicine and everything in between" (Sodaro, 2012). A Google search told me that Sodaro has a BS from Cornell and also wrote Six Ways to Prepare a Chicken and Best Ever Brussel Sprouts. I could even friend her on Facebook! I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Don't you need at least nursing license to write on this topic? Then came the next shock: I asked myself, The CT content in an important document like this wouldn't be cut and paste from eHow, would it? You know the answer already: It is. How much critical thinking is there when someone highlights, copies, and pastes?

How can this be happening? First, the Journal of Nursing Administration publishes a CT Tool developed by a lawyer, a doctor of naturopathy, and two people with BA degrees (Berkow, et al, 2011) ...now this.

If a nurse expert isn't listed as an author on important publications, clearly, no expert nurse had enough input to count. Even if non-nurse writers are brilliant, they can't possibly beat the learning curve it takes to speak for nursing at an expert level. The other thing: We can't be seduced by using only what's quick and easy....the first few things we find online. With important papers, we need a scholarly approach that analyzes the best of the best work we have. They could at least put recommended readings. We have several recent articles that get to the heart of the issues, implications, and solutions of poor delegations skills. For example:


I realize I'm preaching to the choir, but please, pass this on to your colleagues and students (makes great class discussion). Remind them to evaluate author qualifications, even when it comes from trusted sources. It's EASY to Google authors to learn more about them. You may find you have an expert or your next dinner recipe, as I did. Don't assume. Some peer-reviewed publications don't share author qualifications with their blind reviewers.

The good thing: I applaud the ANA for asking for comments and making it easy for us to do so. You can download the Principles of Delegation draft in Word format and comment until March 16th at the link at the end of this paragraph. If you don't have time to read the whole document, search and find "References". If you agree, suggest that they drop the eHow reference, and expand their literature search. Point out that just because there are trusted sponsors like University of Phoenix and MSN-Informatics (depends on when you check), it's unlikely that they endorse the content (maybe these organizations need to think about this). If you have good references, submit them. If you have expertise, offer to help. That's what I did. Download Principles of Delegation Draft: http://www.nursingworld.orgMainMenuCategories/ThePracticeofProfessionalNursing/Call-for-Public-Comment/Call-for-Comments-Principles-for-Delegation-by-RNs-to-UAP.html

Jaw - droppingly yours,

Roz
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