

Additional File 3 - Information and experiences extracted from included studies

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| Peers / colleagues |
| Observation of others' practice |
| Formalised supervision |
| Systematic self-evaluation |
| Specialist (including consultants in hospitals) |
| Email contact with specialist |
| Telephone hotline to specialist |
| University colleagues |
| Informal conversation with colleagues |
| Personal contacts |
| Colleagues via internet |
| Mentor / senior clinician |
| Peer opinion leaders |
| Specialist dentist |
| "Dental practice expert" |
| CNS/CNE |
| Preceptor/resource persons |
| Non-medical personnel |
| Unit managers |
| Practice development team |
| Students |
| Teachers |
| Preceptor / supervising doctor |
| Clinical leaders |
| Physicians (discussions with) |
| Residents |
| Grand rounds |
| Referral information & feedback from colleagues |
| Informal networks |
| Specialty groups |
| Allied health workers |
| "Other" healthcare professionals |
| Prescribing advisors |
| Other organisations |
| Social services |
| Local care delivery (arrangements) |
| Local service evaluations |

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| Local prescribing culture |
| Pharmaceutical companies |
| Pharmaceutical companies' websites |
| Pharmaceutical / product literature |
| Drug company functions |
| Company reps |
| Company literature |
| Advertising (aimed at healthcare professionals) |
| Direct mail |
| Manufacturer |
| Drug information |
| Package insert |
| Medication / treatment pamphlets |
| Drug reference sources - print format |
| Drug reference sources - e-format |
| Filtering services |
| Clinical calculators |
| Computer decision aid |
| Patients |
| Patient questioning |
| Patient record |
| Patients' experiences of illness |
| Observing patients in public space |
| Patient surveys |
| Patients' families |
| Health information service for patients |
| The body - own |
| The body - other nurses' |
| The body - patient's |
| Reading the patient using senses (smell, listening, watching, touch) |
| Conferences / conventions / congresses |
| Seminars |
| Workshops |
| Courses - lecture-based |
| Courses - hands-on |
| Lectures sponsored by workplace |
| Symposiums |
| Continuing education - local |
| Continuing education - national |
| Continuing education - non-specific |
| CME articles |
| Departmental courses |
| Inservice education at work |
| Professional meetings including association meetings (national and international) |

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| In-services |
| Internships |
| Orientations |
| Rounds |
| Meetings |
| Journal clubs |
| Quality circles |
| Study club |
| What has worked / not worked before |
| Personal development of acquired knowledge through experience and prior knowledge |
| Side-effects in patients |
| Personal clinical experience |
| Personal experience of patients' experiences of illness |
| Nurses' known explorations |
| Intuition |
| Setting knowledge arising from social & clinical pressure, expectations and events |
| Patients' charts |
| Policy & procedure manuals |
| National health policy |
| Government documents |
| Video & other media including audio tapes |
| Thesis or dissertation |
| Newsletters |
| Communication books |
| Bulletin boards |
| Electronic resources (including CD ROM) |
| Internet |
| Computer information networks |
| Intranet |
| Medical websites (incl. WebMD) |
| Organisational websites |
| Patient group websites e.g. dementia |
| Internet - public sites |
| Internet - databases |
| Internet - search engines |
| Computer programme |
| Computer databases |
| Personal digital assistant |
| Medline / index medicus (offline) |
| Point of care databases |
| Chatrooms |
| Email discussion lists |
| Email use |
| Online continuing education |

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| CD Medical textbook |
| Patient information |
| Patient-specific information via internet |
| prescription / patient orders via internet |
| Books, journals, previous research |
| Textbooks (not grouped with other publications) including 'personal library' |
| Textbooks - electronic |
| Pocket reference / book |
| Handbooks or manuals |
| Technical reports |
| Diagnostic laboratory |
| Laboratory manual |
| Educational booklet or brochure |
| Informal documents |
| Journals (not grouped with other publications) including online journals |
| Journals - editorials |
| Summaries of studies including structured abstracts |
| evidence-based clinical decision support resource |
| Reviews |
| Case studies |
| Professional association updates via internet |
| Professional association |
| Professional association website |
| Unions |
| Professional newsletters |
| Brief updates |
| Professional organisations / societies |
| External (professional) bodies |
| Clinical guidelines |
| Locally developed guidelines or protocols |
| Evidence-based practice |
| Professional literature |
| Non-peer reviewed dental information |
| Free professional magazines |
| Public media |
| Personal beliefs |
| Personal non-clinical experience |
| Basic education (at nursing / medical / dental / vet etc. school) |
| Common sense |
| Training |
| Own notes |
| Local audit |
| Practice or intradepartmental meetings |
| Group/local norms |

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|---------------------------------------------|
| The ways it has always been done |
| Handover |
| Chiefs / local heads |
| Local community |
| Library / Information centre |
| Librarian |
| Electronic documents (offline e.g. on disk) |
| Hospice |
| Organisational features |
| Wall chart |