

The Future of Technology in Nursing

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Nursing informatics is defined as a specialty that incorporates computer science, information science, and nursing science to manage and communicate data, knowledge, wisdom, and information in nursing practice (McGonigle & Mastrian, 2014). Informatics is becoming increasingly popular in the nursing practice mainly because of the rapid advancements in technology. Healthcare systems are assimilating technology into day-to-day practice at a fast rate. Various factors including patient privacy and security should be considered when transforming data into important knowledge. Incorporating informatics with evidence-based practice (EBP) helps improve the care provided for patients (Darvish et al., 2014). One use of informatics that I believe has greatly impacted the nursing practice is the electronic health record (EHR). This is a collection of all of a person's interactions with the health care system and which is available electronically to health care professionals in different locations. The EHR enhances decision-making by nurses regarding delivery of care by providing access to patient information, enabling entry of data, and enabling nurses to access scientific knowledge.

Nursing informatics is very important in the field of nursing. Nurses who are integrated into the field of information technology are able to successfully improve the quality of care provided to patients. Use of nursing informatics helps promote healthcare. Studies have shown that informatics improves all aspects of healthcare including clinical areas, education, and research as well as management (Darvish et al., 2014). As such all stakeholders in these aspects (students, patients, nurses, and managers) are all beneficiaries of informatics. In our current world, we have clinical nursing information systems, medical diagnostic systems, and decision support systems that are used in collecting information on patients. Informatics through

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evidence-based nursing has helped increase patient safety and hence is increasingly integrated into the nursing curriculum.

Managers can also improve performance and efficiency through new technologies and information system. Studies have shown that informatics impact careful shift planning and efficient management of the works of nurses and thus the overall health care. This is because information is the source for every management activity. For instance, Internet-based nurse scheduling systems are designed by the manager, and this ensures uniform resource allocation and increases patient care time. It should be noted that the nursing industry is a service sector with the product being care given to the patients. The use of informatics ensures that patients get the best care possible. Informatics increases access to evidence leading to quality patient care that is supported by evidence-based nursing (Melnik et al., 2012). Nurses also benefit from the use of informatics with a reduced amount of time spent on indirect care. The nurses are able to assess, report, apply and manage patient data by using the new technological tools.

As has been seen in the essay, there are many advantages of using nursing informatics for the different stakeholders involved in the nursing practice. Patients, nurses, and the managers all get a lot of benefits from the use of informatics. The informatics tool that has impacted my practice the most is the EHR which I use when examining records. From the information in this record, the decision I make on the condition of the patient is well informed. I am also able to get new information using the EHR in situations where I am not familiar with what I am dealing with in practice.

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