NURSING INFORMATICS COMPETENCIES 2030: ARE WE THERE YET?

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Introduction
This presentation details the informatics competencies recommended for nurses in all areas of practice, updates the state of competency achievement, identifies reasons for the current achievement and recommends additional informatics areas for the nursing workforce of 2030.


Purpose: Guide and strengthen the nursing profession, improve nursing care and enable nurses to lead healthcare reform
Prediction: Significant change in nursing practice due to growth of healthcare informatics, computer-supported knowledge management, decision support and an increasingly pervasive digital workflow
Problem: Faculty, students and nurses are not prepared for the digital healthcare world

Methods
Critical review and analysis of the following:
• 2010 IOM report
• Nursing informatics competencies (NIC)
• Nursing and healthcare workforce for 2020 and beyond
• Informatics-related innovations
Synthesis of findings and implications
• Via small-group discussions among NI faculty

Discussion
• 2020 almost here; yet, nurses have not uniformly attained nursing informatics competencies (NIC) recommended in the IOM report
• Technology is pervasive in healthcare, making it necessary that nurses at the basic level possess, strengthen, identify and attain new NIC competencies
• Current research shows a need to meet basic NIC for faculty, students and practicing nurses (Choi & De Martinis, 2013; Herbert & Conner, 2016; National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, 2016)
• Nurses should align their NIC with their current practice environments
• Future practice environments will include technology advancements in healthcare, health information exchange (HIE), interdisciplinary practice and a global focus, which will impact future nursing informatics competencies (HIMSS, 2017)
• It is important to continue to identify the current and future gaps in NI education to further support competency development

Conclusions
• Gaps remain in NIC among faculty at all nursing program levels, students and practicing nurses
• NIC identified for every practicing nurse in 2009 not yet present
• Much work is needed to attain 2030 healthcare workforce NIC

Exemplar NIC

Current
• Microsoft Office Suite skills
• Technology-mediated communication to support patient care
• Library database searches
• Validating professional sources
• Navigation of the electronic health record

Future
• Access/Mobile/Telehealth technology
• Access, evaluate, apply relevant data to patient care
• Statistical principles and analyses of outcome data
• Data/Implementation science
• Understand/Use big data findings

Recommendations
• Future NIC must be identified and mechanisms to develop those competencies applied to keep nursing practice current and effective
• Nursing informatics education must extend beyond higher education venues into the workplace
• All nurses need continuing education on current and advancing nursing informatics competencies in order to practice to the fullest extent of their education and scope of practice
• NIC assessment should be included in hiring practices and annual evaluations

References