

NR 360 – Information Systems in Healthcare

Week 1

Introduction

Hello everyone! I am sure nursing school is keeping all of us busy. It has been a long journey and I am so excited for this program to be over.

My name is Rachelle. I have been in the healthcare field for seven years. I started as a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) then worked my way to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). My ultimate goal is to become a nurse practitioner, but that is if my brain will retain more knowledge after this program. I am a home health nurse. This job gives me so much flexibility to be able to manage my classes, labs, and clinical days. I visit patients in the comfort of their own home to do their wound care dressing changes, IV antibiotic infusions, medication reconciliation, education and to make sure that they are doing well after hospitalization.

Working fulltime is definitely a challenge but this is the only way I can pursue nursing school. If I have a choice, I would definitely stop working. However, I find it very helpful because I see my work experience as a part of my clinical experience. It helps enhance my assessment skills. Yes, it is hard, but this is the only way to go.

I do not have a lot of free time, but if I do, I spend my time outdoors. I love mountain hiking, snow skiing, fishing and kayaking. I also enjoy scenic long drives. Of course, Las Vegas does not offer a lot of outdoor activities and that is why during short breaks from school, I make sure I take enough time for my selfcare and family time.

I hope this term would go by fast. I am sure we will learn a lot on charting for our patients. Good luck everyone!

Week 1

What is nursing informatics?

Discuss ways that nursing informatics could be applied to all areas of professional nursing practice, including clinical practice, administration, education, and research. Provide examples of each. What do you see as the biggest significance of nursing informatics, and why?

I see nursing informatics as a blank canvas. The nurses will then paint the picture of what the patient looks like. Everything is recorded from the time the patient stepped a foot in the hospital until they are discharged to their homes. The first thing we were taught to do was to assess the patient. We then record our assessment to these blank pages, we record normal and abnormal findings, symptoms, and any details that raise questions including patient statements until we can put together information to be able to help the physician diagnose the patient. All the medications, diagnostics, lab orders from the doctor will be recorded. Nurses will then start recording the care plans, interventions, and assessment if its effective or what is effective for the

patient until the patient gets discharged. In today's world, nursing informatics is used for improved quality of care, care continuity, safety, efficiency and patient privacy.

Nursing Informatics is also a legal document that can be used in court in case the patient sues the hospital. This will entail detailed information on what could have gone wrong during the patient's care and how it could have been prevented. This document will serve as a piece of evidence for any malpractice, negligence, abuse or any questionable act during patient care, (Nursing Informatics Working Group, 2020).

"Nursing informatics provide administrators with day-to-day information on patient flow and acuity, resource use, staffing levels, and cost and budgetary balance" (Healthcare Environment: Innovation, etc. 2017). Nursing informatics data is easier to put things into perspective as it can summarize the data where the leaders can pinpoint risks and errors. By gathering the information, it is easier for the leaders to analyze how they can retrain nurses and employees and see what will work best. The best example to this is the efficiency of nurses having patient ratio. The nurse is able to concentrate and provide best care if the nurse is not bombarded with task. Studies show that some nurses become taskers due to all the responsibilities that is piling up when taking care of higher number of patients. Compare to lower patient ratio, nurses have more time to assess clients and address what is needed. Studies also show that patients benefit from low patient ratio because their rapid change of condition being assessed and addressed right away. Low nurse patient to ratio shows quality of information input into nursing informatics and most importantly, the quality of care being provided to clients are reaching the facility's standards. This clearly shows lowering the risk and errors in the healthcare field which provides healthcare providers protection from "I will sue you" realm.

In terms of education and research, nursing informatics can be used as a concept and standards to support evidence-based practice, research, and education. It can be used in future evidenced base studies to track what is effective and what is not effective in the healthcare field. It is amazing how healthcare evolves so much. If it is not for the recorded data, our researchers will not be able to prove efficient techniques to disseminate new knowledge into practice (Nursing Informatics Working Group, 2020). Nursing informatics is the best way to reach patient-centered care. Everyone wants truly valuable healthcare, to be able to attain this demand, we must continue to strive to research and teach nurses in providing impeccable care to patients. Healthcare is expensive, thus, everyone in the healthcare field should be able to provide the clients exceptional care by using evidence-based practices.

Can we all take a step back and imagine how hard it will be to access information if nursing informatics is not in place? I can imagine a lot of paper trail, misfiled papers, privacy breach, exhausted nurses, and a whole lot of errors in patient care and charting. Thus, the importance of nursing informatics in today's world is incredible. We are able to keep up with patient's continuity of care while providing the safest and best care possible. Our leaders are able to pinpoint risk and errors in shorter amount of time with data analysis and reports. Researchers and evidence-based practices are continuing to evolve to seek the latest and greatest effective practices. Nursing informatics is truly amazing.