

Week 4 Discussion: Informatics Skills

How do the informatics skills you are now developing/expanding upon and validating help you meet current informatics skills levels? How did the TANIC self-assessment change your impression of your current informatics skill levels?

Hello Professor and Classmates

With nursing informatics (NI), it is an essential part of everyday nursing practice and as nurses we need to be competent in this area due to its continual emergent growth. It is the development and application of nursing informatics that has ensured the highest quality patients care outcomes. NI is expanding and improving in this ever-changing society which is driven by technology. Nursing informatics is utilized throughout administration on staffing and scheduling, the access of email for communication purposes among staff, cost analysis for budget purposes, and quality assurance and outcome analysis. A primary example of informatics skills developed for me as a nurse today, is the skills to navigate and document within an electronic health record (EHR). I first entered into the healthcare environment working in a doctor's office, where everything was charted manually into paper charts and placed into a filing system. The simplicity of this charting process made it easy for healthcare professionals to navigate through records. However, it had its frustrations when it came to locate and update patient records and information. Many times, it was difficult to decipher the multiple different hand writings in this documentation process. "In today's era of health care, documentation has become almost as central to patient care as the actual care itself" (Allen, Rounds, & Pronovost, 2015, p 296). This