Chapter 18
A Glimpse of the Future

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ABSTRACT

In this the capstone chapter for the book a vision for the next 20 years is bought forward. The transformation of nursing is seen to take place in the context of continued debate related to focus and language of nursing and is supported by an informatics infrastructure and specialists. Web 2.0 technology is bought into practice and virtual worlds are grounds in which to learn and test practice. Point of care technology brings evidence to the bedside. This is a basic need in an era of personalised health care and real choice in healthcare.

THE CURRENT STATE

The future of evidence based practice and nursing informatics will continue to evolve over the next ten years; however, like all predictions definitive pathways of development are difficult to articulate from this vantage point. What can be said, with a degree of certainty, is that global healthcare and technology factors such as increasing consumer expectations of high quality safe healthcare where consumer participation is central in decision making; advances in health and biomedical sciences; and the increasing application of technology to healthcare will continue to have a significant impact on nursing. It is also clear that development needs to occur within the context of clearly articulated descriptions of what nursing work is as a standalone activity.

THE FUTURE

The application of evidence based practice, clinical governance and technology is an important factor the future of nursing practice and a premise of this chapter (Taylor and Allen 2007). The chapter will

highlight the intersect between the arenas and how they are essential in the ongoing development of nursing practice. One hopes the future ensures the continued development of the art of nursing along with advancement in evidence based practice and nursing informatics. This will deliver the best for both the nursing profession and health care in general. The chapter has two themes, one addressing current barriers and the second addressing the empowerment of the consumer and introduction of new technologies. The chapter starts by highlighting the significant barriers that are currently impacting the integration of evidence based practice and nursing informatics into nursing practice. Brief vignettes will be provided on how the future may look when these issues are addressed. The second section will cover the growing empowerment of the consumer /patient, how new and future technologies support active participation in decision making, and the impact on nursing. Nursing has a central role in health care delivery, however to remain potent nurses need to continue the march of development that includes integrating aspects of person centeredness and technology to continue to impact positively on patient outcomes.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Addressing Barriers to Integration of Evidence Based Practice and Nursing Informatics

There are significant barriers impacting the integration of evidence and informatics into nursing practice. Addressing these barriers over the coming years will be important for the continuing evolution of nursing. Barriers include the paucity of informatics competence within the nursing profession, the culture of nursing and a range of issues in developing nursing evidence based practice.

Nursing Competence in the Integration of Evidence into Practice and Informatics

Development of the underpinning competencies in both evidence based practice and informatics is important to further advance both perspectives. From a nursing informatics perspective, the debate around the inclusion of computer, information and informatics competencies into the pre licensure and post graduate courses over the past twenty years (Skiba, 2008) will be brought to fruition within the next decade. Internationally there are a range of initiatives driving these changes including:

- Keeping Patients Safe; Transforming the work of environment of nurses (Institute of Medicine 2003),
- the recommendations to address the gap between evidence and practice in the United States of America National League for Nursing position statement "the preparation of nurses to practice in a technology rich environment – an informatics agenda" outline and
- the nursing informatics development project in Australia (Foster 2009).
- The Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform (TIGER) Informatics Competencies Collaborative (TICC) Final Report (Gugerty & Delaney 2009)

The Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform (TIGER) Informatics Competency Initiative Report (Gugerty & Delaney 2009 page 1) defines the nursing informatics competencies across the three domains basic computer literacy, information literacy, and information management and provides an excellent basis to address computer and information literacy issues. These three areas are the foundation competencies for any undergraduate nursing program and provide the basis on which to develop additional health

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