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Nursing Informatics: Scope and Standards of Practice

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Abstract. The American Nurses Association published the third iteration of its nursing informatics scope and standards of practice in 2008. This work reflects the significant evolution of the specialty from the original scope of practice statement published in 1994 and the first nursing informatics standards of practice in 1995. Although the definition of nursing informatics remains essentially unchanged from that presented in 2001, the inclusion of "wisdom" reflects today's emerging mandate for evidence-based practice and decision support resources for the knowledge worker.

Keywords: scope and standards of practice

Introduction

The American Nurses Association (ANA) recognized nursing informatics (NI) as a nursing specialty in 1992. The ANA then published the first NI scope of practice statement in 1994, followed by the first NI standards of practice in 1995. The second version, published in 2001, combined the scope and standards content within one resource, introduced a new and more robust definition of nursing informatics, and presented emerging content about NI competencies. The 2008 publication reflects the significant evolution of NI practice over the past 15 years.

Scope of Practice Statement

The scope of practice statement provides answers to the "who", "what", "when", "where", "how", and "why" questions about nursing informatics. The definition of nursing informatics sets the stage for follow-on discussion of the metastructures, concepts, and tools of NI; functional areas for nursing informatics practice; informatics competencies, including a matrix presentation; integration and boundaries of NI; ethics; and the future of nursing informatics.

Standards of Nursing Informatics

The standards content presents each of the standards of practice and professional performance. The standards of practice reflect the incorporation of the nursing process within NI practice, while the professional performance standards address education, professional practice evaluation, quality of practice, collegiality, collaboration, ethics, research, resource utilization, advocacy, and leadership. The accompanying measurement criteria for each standard provide more detail about the expected knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to meet the standards.

References

American Nurses Association. Nursing informatics: Scope and standards of practice. Silver Spring, Maryland (USA): Nursesbooks.org, 2008.

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