

## **An Innovative Home Health Care Classification System for Continuity of Care**

V.K. Saba

*Georgetown University School of Nursing, Washington, DC USA*

### **Overview**

An innovative Home Health Care Classification (HHCC) System has been developed for continuity of care from hospital to home. The HHCC System translates clinical care parameters -- nursing, medical, socio-demographic into clinical care protocols (CCPs). They are used to: predict care needs, track the care process, and evaluate the outcomes of home health care.

The HHCC System is based on a conceptual framework using King's Theory and the nursing process. The HHCC System consists of a methodology and a nomenclature. The HHCC methodology followed to create clinical care protocols (CCPs) is designed to track the care process over time; whereas, the nomenclature codes, indexes, and classifies the care process based on a holistic approach.

The CCPs methodology uses an innovative computer-assisted assessment platform. The intake assessment screens consist of a series of user-friendly menus designed to collect the appropriate data needed to generate the CCPs. The methodology uses decision-support structures, standardized care protocols, and the HHCC System's nomenclature.

The CCPs are designed to predict the resources and services required for the acute phase of the episode of care. They are created on admission, then validated during the initial assessment by the nurse in collaboration with the patient. The CCPs once validated, are then used to document and track the care process for the entire episode of care. The tracking of clinical care events also provides a measure of the continuity of care.

The HHCC System nomenclature consists of six data dictionaries, coded according to the ICD-10 structure, and classified according to the 20 Care Components. The HHCC includes: (a) 20 Care Components to assess; (b) 145 Nursing Diagnoses to diagnose; (c) 3 Expected Outcomes to identify outcome measures; (d) 160 Nursing Interventions to plan care; (e) 4 Intervention Actions to provide care; and (f) 3 Actual Outcomes to evaluate the outcomes of home health care.

The HHCC System runs on a laptop computer to facilitate ease of data collection at the point-of-care in the home setting. The data once collected are downloaded to a workstation / computer system in the home health agency or the location where the patients' computer-based clinical files and databases are stored. The HHCC System is programmed in a Windows-based language and can be adapted for other computer configurations.