Integrating and Aligning Modularized Nursing Informatics into BSN Curriculum

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Introduction

With the rapid implementation of EHRs and health care technologies, it’s important that nurses acquire the knowledge and skills for health information technologies to provide patient-centered care, to work in interdisciplinary teams, and to improve care quality. However, the accelerated curriculum makes it challenging to add a new course for a 4-semester BSN program. This project aims to align modularize nursing informatics and integrate informatics concepts into the nursing curriculum seamlessly.

Module Development and Considerations

Fifteen modules categorized into three domains were developed based on the guidelines from TIGER Initiative, AACN, ANA and NLN (Figure 1). Integration of these modules to the respective courses is based on content relevance, course sequences, and clinical schedules so students are prepared with informatics knowledge before starting full-time clinical rotation in the last semester (Figure 2). In order to integrate informatics knowledge into different courses, each module is designed to be independent. However, students may learn better if they start some modules first in the same semester. Thus, some modules are suggested to be studied in the first half of the semester. Module assessment methods, including quizzes, assignments, hands-on virtual EHR activities, and/or projects are developed through the collaboration of each course instructors to optimize the integration of nursing science and informatics.

Discussions and Implications

It is essential to introduce health informatics and technologies into nursing curriculum to prepare our future nurses. This proposal uses the modularized online course design and content mapping approach to integrate nursing informatics knowledge and skills into the BSN curriculum. Unlike the tradition course, the modularized approach integrates core informatics knowledge to the BSN program without overwhelming students with additional course load. In addition, instructors can design the informatics activity coupling with the respective course content to transfer informatics concepts into their knowledge and skills for practice. Under the pressure of accelerated curriculum, non-linear modulated model can be easily implemented into any nursing curriculum regardless the curriculum designs. This model has a great potential for other health care related curriculums, especially for interprofessional training.

*References available upon request

Figure 1. Nursing Informatics domains and modules

Figure 2. Aligning Nursing Courses to Informatics Modules