

## **Electronic Health Records: A Teaching Tool**

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Our creative inquiry (CI) team research seeks to discover if familiar environments can be used to teach new skills which can then be applied in an unfamiliar environment. For this project, the team chose to look at Electronic Health Record (EHR) software because few solutions currently exist for teaching students to use this complex software. The government is also mandating as a part of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act that EHR software be used for all people by 2014. The team is creating software which looks similar to the familiar social networking environment Facebook but contains the major features nurses would use in commercial EHR programs. Our goal is to provide an educational EHR system in a familiar environment that acts as a stepping stone for the students to facilitate the transition from mere classroom knowledge about EHRs to actual use of a commercial EHR system in a hospital or doctor's office. The team has recently conducted usability testing on nursing faculty and is presently focused on the skill set (competencies) necessary for EHR use.

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