An Innovative Electronic Health Record for Teaching Undergraduate Nursing Students

Loren Klingman, Lindsey Maxwell, Ashley Monique Moss, Briana Powell, Maria Seear, Ashley Smith, Ashley Williams, & Mandy Zint

Advised by: Nancy Meehan, PhD, RN and Roy Pargas, PhD

Abstract

This Creative Inquiry is a blending of Computer Science and Nursing majors to create an interactive electronic health record (EHR). This EHR will be used to teach nursing majors the basic skills associated with queries, data entry, and analyzing patient information. The student version of the EHR was created with regard to the input of select faculty and students who have worked with such systems in order to include only the most pertinent information. Therefore, the skills learned in the student version of the EHR will be transferrable to the majority of clinical settings. Using this method, the Creative Inquiry team was able to effectively pioneer a tangible form of the interactive student electronic health record that was envisioned during the planning phase of the project.

Significance

Daily hospitals in the United States and all over the world are switching to electronic health records. A first-term priority of President Barack Obama is the creation of a nationwide Electronic Health Record System. Obama vowed to invest $10 billion annually over the next five years on health IT, in his $825 billion economic stimulus package. His plans include the notion that by 2015, every health care facility should have a system in place. An electronic health records system could save the nation $300B a year, and streamline workflow at hospitals and physician offices but to improve the quality of health care. Therefore, it is important that health care providers, especially nurses know how to utilize them.

Introduction

Technology in health care is constantly advancing, and health care providers must keep up with these advances. One recent advancement has been the implementation of electronic health records (EHRs). EHRs are basically an electronic system that holds all of a patient's information. EHRs can also retrieve and transmit other information, from outside sources, pertinent to a patient's health. The process of nursing care is based on many factors of a patient's status combined with institutional policies concerning his/her diagnosis. Electronic health records help unite these factors by providing the most important information about a patient's vitals, diagnosis, history and medications. Each hospital or organization usually has a different type of EHR. This Creative Inquiry has compiled the most crucial parts of an electronic health record from a wide variety of systems. This innovative electronic health record for teaching undergraduate nursing students will enable students to learn how to manage and utilize electronic health records effectively.

Future Implementations

Undergraduate nursing students should be able to:

- Acquire the basic skills needed to achieve an understanding of real electronic health records they will encounter in the future.
- Easily switch between various EHR software (e.g., McKesson, Cerner).
- Gain a basic understanding of data entry, queries, and other skills associated with EHRs without becoming dependant on one software system.
- Transition to a variety of different clinical settings with a basic understanding of how the EHR works.

EHR