

## **Hospital Electronic Health Record, Do Students Need Access?**

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### **Abstract**

**Background:** The abundance of technology being used within healthcare has increased the necessity of nursing schools to help bridge the gap from academia to real world practice for nursing students. The transition to practice often has a steep learning curve when it comes to the electronic health record (EHR). There is a significant challenge for nursing schools to integrate this type of technology into education due to the cost, training needs, rapidly changing technology, and time constraints. The ability to provide students with access to real-time data in the current hospital EHR is essential to providing quality care to patients. Access to the EHR provides foundational experience for the students to build upon and further expand student's skills.

**Purpose:** Working with hospital partners to create student accounts with limited permissions is one way that schools of nursing can help to bridge the practice gap. Multiple stakeholders are necessary for a successful program, which includes hospital information technology, clinical informatics, school of nursing faculty, and leadership. The hospital's EHR allows for the creation of a "student nurse" access to the "live" system.

**Methods:** All undergraduate nursing students (~350 students per year) were granted permission and privileges for the role of "student nurse" were created in the EHR system to mimic the nurse view, with the expectation that data entered under the student nurse role will require a verification or "sign-off" from a Registered Nurse. The students attend a mandatory computer training sessions where they learned how to enter data, search for information, and complete a case study to reinforce their learning.

**Results/Conclusions:** This new process was implemented over the past two semesters of a five-semester undergraduate nursing program. There are plans to survey the students based on their experience at the end of the nursing program to gain insight on their satisfaction and confidence using the EHR. The expected outcomes include increasing learning of competencies related to informatics and use of the EHR. The hospital partner is expecting that nursing students will require less computer training once hired and the learning curve related to charting and documentation will be less.