



Nursing Informatics: ANA Scope and Standards of Practice

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The American Nurses Association (ANA) revises the scope and standards for all specialties in Nursing every five years. For Nursing Informatics, the ANA published the third iteration of its scope and standards of practice in 2008. This work reflected the significant evolution of the specialty from the original scope of practice statement published in 1994 and the first nursing informatics standards of practice in 1995. Although the definition of nursing informatics remains essentially unchanged from that presented in 2008, the expansion of "wisdom" reflects today's emerging mandate for evidence-based practice and decision support resources for the knowledge worker. The scope of practice defines the "who," "what," "where," "when," and "why" of nursing practice. The standard of practice describes the "how" of nursing. As a specialty in nursing, nursing informatics is defined with levels of practice that are defined as the informatics nurse and the Nursing Informatics Specialist. The call for membership in the workgroup was posted in the early Spring of 2013. Prerequisites for membership in the workgroup was the submission of documents regarding ANA references from the state nursing association, resume, letter of recommendation from employment and experience in the field of Nursing Informatics. Workgroup members had to commit to attending bimonthly, 2-hour conference calls, reviewing material, and researching updates to their assignments. Starting in early April 2013 and completing in October 2013, a fourteen-member panel reviewed every page in the 2008 document and revised the content to reflect the most current practice standards based on past and future trends. Expounding on the current content, the panel reaffirmed the scope and standards of nursing informatics and added content to reflect trends in heuristics, genetics, and other sciences related to informatics nurse practice. There is new content regarding ethics in informatics, social technology, virtual reality, robotics, the use of technology to improve patient safety, and the expanded use of technology in nursing. In addition, supporting the trend in evidence-based practice models, extensive discussion resulted in an expanded section on the informatics nurse's role in the evolution of advanced clinical decision support systems, including artificial intelligence. As a part of future trends in healthcare delivery the political culture of new regulations and standards is considered. Creating a standard for education of the Nursing Informatics Specialist was also given great thought to produce a new model depicting the levels of specialty against the levels of practice within the profession. The final document was posted for public comment on www.nursingworld.org on December 12, 2013. The group met again February 5th to review the comments and finalize the document. This presentation will highlight the review and revision used to ensure that this fourth edition document keeps pace with current and future trends for nursing informatics. In addition, the presenter will highlight the significant changes that continue to support nursing informatics as an advanced practice.

