Infusion of Nursing Informatics: from Outside In

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ABSTRACT
Knowledge about informatics is essential for all nurses. Many faculties know and employ parts of nursing informatics in their courses and curriculum, however the infusion of technology enhanced learning and informatics into the curriculum is expensive, time consuming and takes expertise. To address these issues a 5-institution Nursing Collaborative has designed a five-year plan that has each of the institutions responsible to provide informatics teaching, learning and resources to faculty and students at all five institutions—moving learning from Outside In.

Introduction
Health science faculty is challenged to maintain curricular currency in the face of a rapidly-changing knowledge base about health and health care. The infusion of information technologies into health care changes the very way that nurses provide patient care. Helping faculty from schools of nursing to become proficient in the application of information technology to health care, and to transfer that knowledge into the curricula designed to educate the next generation of nurses. Budgetary and time constraints call for creative strategies for faculty development.

Wisconsin-Integrated Technology into Nursing Education and Practice Initiative (WI-ITNEP) capitalizes on a well-established nursing education collaboration of the University of Wisconsin System to provide education in new technologies for faculty in Schools of Nursing. This initiative will enhance nursing education in the State of Wisconsin, and, by extension, enhance gains in patient safety, and drive improvements in health care quality by insuring that nurses are well-prepared to use information technologies in support of patient care. WI-ITNEP offers significant innovation in faculty development including:

- Strengthening technology-enhanced teaching approaches among nursing faculty from five schools of nursing already linked in a collaborative nursing program
- Employing a portfolio-based approach to self-directed life-long learning that will provide sustainable strategies for ongoing integration of information and other technologies
- Providing experiential learning activities with new technologies that faculty will then use to teach their own students
- Balancing self-directed with expert-conducted training opportunities
- Establishing a state-of-the-art training site in each of the five schools of the collaborative nursing program
- Creating shared course materials by helping faculty transform course materials to include informatics-intensive approaches

Current state:
The five institutions have “scholar teams” of six individuals from each site. Baseline individual informatics competency survey’s have been developed and completed by the scholars. The first year project is ready for presentation. Monthly video brown bags with the scholars are held with follow up activities. E-portfolios are being developed and a Telehealth Home Laboratory is being designed. The infusion has begun.