A CALL TO ADOPT A UNIQUE NURSE IDENTIFIER

THE NURSING KNOWLEDGE: BIG DATA SCIENCE POLICY AND ADVOCACY WORKGROUP

Nursing Knowledge:
Big Data Science Initiative

POLICY RECOMMENDATION AND IMPLICATIONS

Use the NCSBN ID as the unique nurse identifier to demonstrate the value of nursing and enhance individual care and health outcomes.

INTRODUCTION

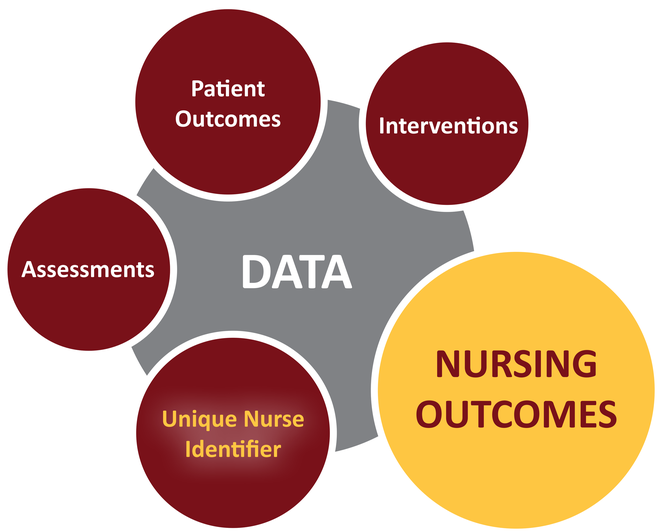
- Nursing's contribution to the health of individuals and communities is difficult to measure and often invisible.
- Nursing documentation in electronic health record (EHR), electronic resource planning (ERP), and other health IT systems can demonstrate nursing's contribution in a value-based care model.
- Nursing's lack of visibility is partly due to the absence of a unique identifier for nurses.

A UNIQUE NURSE IDENTIFIER ENABLES

- Measurement of nursing's role in contributing to safe, effective healthcare practices and enhancing enterprise resource planning.
- Scientific inquiry to quantify nursing care and its impact on health outcomes.
- Nurse-specific assessment, intervention and outcomes data to research nursing documentation data points from health IT systems.
- Examination of the variability of direct nursing care time and costs and the relationships between patient and nurse characteristics and costs.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE BOARDS OF NURSING (NCSBN) ID

- A free, unique identifier, publicly available, that is automatically generated, and maintained for each RN.
- The Nursing Knowledge: Big Data Science Policy and Advocacy Workgroup recommends the NCSBN ID to enhance patient care and outcomes.



ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- The Nursing Knowledge: Big Data Science Policy and Advocacy Workgroup collaborates with
  - American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)
  - American Nurses Association (ANA)
  - Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI)
  - American Academy of Nursing (AAN)
  - Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
  - National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)
  - Office of the National Coordinator (ONC)
- The Workgroup is exploring proof-of-concept pilots to determine the technical feasibility and benefits of using the unique nurse identifier.

CONCLUSION

A unified voice is vital for adoption of a unique nurse identifier in health IT systems for documentation, education, research and training purposes in the U.S. and globally.

What Can Nurses Do?

Advocate with your organization and its health IT systems vendors to adopt the NCSBN ID.
For proof-of-concept pilot opportunities contact *whende@nurseevolution.com*

Reference:
Sensmeier, J., Androwich, I. M., Baernholdt, M., Carroll, W.M., Fields, W., Fong, V., Murphy, J., Omery, A., and Rajwany, N. (2019). Demonstrating the value of nursing care through use of a unique nurse identifier. *Online Journal of Nursing Informatics (OJNI), 23*(2).