

The National Transformation of Nursing Documentation

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Introduction

Nursing documentation lacks standardisation with poor standards of documentation (Healthcare Inspectorate Wales, 2014/2013; Trusted to Care, 2014). The national e nursing documents Programme aimed to standardise nursing documents to improve the accuracy of records and release time to care.

The standardization of nursing documents and the development of an integrated digital platform has been achieved to comply with the nursing code of practice to keep clear, accurate, concise, contemporaneous records about patients (Nursing & Midwifery Council, 2015) to improve patient safety and reduce harm.

Approach

The introduction of health board/trust Nursing Informatics roles, has supported both local and national engagement that enabled the rapid development of national standardised evidence-based core risk assessments with a national nursing language. The introduction of the new roles supported the evidence identified in the Topol Report, (2019) to incorporate clinical roles in the development of technology and subsequent implementation.

In tandem with the new roles a governance process was established with key stakeholders from nursing , health, social care and patients to address information standards, patient safety and design to ensure alignment and approvals to support both the standardization and digital technology design.

Body

Up to date evidence-based practice in support of better patient outcomes was applied to develop national standard assessments that also support an increase in satisfaction for nurses and patients by reducing repetitive questioning. Review of up to date evidence was supported by Specialist multidisciplinary groups who were tasked with identifying a recommendation on the best evidence to the NHS Wales Nurse Directors to approve. This resulted in standardised assessments and a single nursing language nationally:

To support the national adoption of the assessments and language A Welsh Government Health Circular was issued. Standardised forms are being utilised in both the digital and paper format to support transitions of care, and maintain the standard nursing language nationally whilst continuing rollout of the national digital platform.

Conclusions

This 18 month collaborative programme involved executive and nursing end users supported by multidisciplinary teams throughout Wales to achieve:

- Introduction of robust governance processes
- Introduction of National Nursing Informatics roles
- National standardised nursing language
- National standardised evidence-based risk assessments
- A fit for purpose digital solution that supports safe and effective patient care
- Introduction of a national digital platform
- An increase in the adoption of technology by nursing based on user centred design

The development of a national strategic approach towards digital technology and nursing information standards has informed the introduction of a standard nursing language in tandem with a digital platform in a short space of time this has been achieved with extensive collaboration and governance. The key success factor was the

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introduction of new lead nurse informaticist posts to support nursing decisions and adoption from all levels of nursing.

Keywords

National, Nursing language, nursing informatics, standardisation