Informatics Nurse Specialist role: Integrating technology into practice

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**Purpose/Objectives:** CNSs interested in the affects of technology on nursing practice and patient care have a unique opportunity to improve practice and the work environment through the creative use of technology. The Informatics CNS is essential to ensure nurses embrace information technologies in support of practice.

**Significance:** An Informatics CNS with clinical experience and informatics expertise can be strategically positioned in the organization as the best insurance for successful use of health information technologies. This role can support nurses and assist in the management of information systems.

**Background/Rationale:** As health care organizations transition to an electronic health record a CNS with competencies in informatics can be instrumental to nurses and other disciplines requiring technologies to support their daily practice. This unique role can enable nurses to use information to enhance health delivery and effectiveness.

**Description:** Nursing at a major medical center is involved in the transition to an electronic record. An Informatics Clinical Nurse Specialist was identified by leadership to assist with the integration and development of this system by bridging the gap between the information technology teams and clinical practice. The Informatics CNS promotes the individual talents of all members of the teams. The CNS role encompasses the components of practice, consultation, research, education, and management. For the Informatics CNS these specifically relate to the design, development and implementation of information technology.

**Outcome:** The Informatics CNS role continues to be valued in the organization. Nursing informatics, an established specialty in nursing and health informatics, continues to develop and focuses on the representation of nursing information and its management and processing within the organization through a specific role.

**Interpretation/Conclusion:** Ongoing developments in Nursing Informatics will continue to influence nursing practice. New roles in organizations like the Informatics CNS will continue to develop in many areas of healthcare. These roles will be instrumental for clinical information systems that support the clinicians.

**Implications for Practice:** This presentation will result in an understanding of the role of an Informatics Clinical Nurse Specialist and how this role can be instrumental to healthcare professionals in the use of clinical information systems.