Review Article

An Understanding of Information Literacy and Technology in Community Health

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ABSTRACT
Advancement in health care using technology is increasing day to day. Technology is correlated to get better results in every treatment. This paper provides us literacy in information so that an indivual can accrue information when ever needed by maintain a proper health E-record.

KEYWORDS: technology, information literacy.

INTRODUCTION
Information literacy refers to sets of abilities that require individuals to acknowledge when information is needed. In so doing, the individuals gain the ability to use, evaluate, and locate information effectively (Buttaro, Trybulski, Bailey & Sandberg-Cook, 2013). In the current healthcare system, workplace environments have witnessed rapid technological changes proliferate information resources, providing diverse and abundant choices for application in evidence-based practices (Glinkowski& Saracen, 2010). Some of the facilitiesin which information is availableinclude the Internet, media, special interest organizations, community resources, and libraries. The concept of information literacy exhibits associations with technology in such a way that information technology skills foster the utilization of resources such as databases, software applications, and computers – in achieving wide varieties of personal, work-related and academic goals (Glinkowski& Saracen, 2010). Regarding the need for coordination and the establishment of partnerships, the American Nurses Association (2010) affirmed technology and information literacy are related whereby the former supports access to information and their platforms, leading the realization of the latter (APRN Joint Dialogue Group Report, 2008).

Implementation in a Community Setting
Upon utilizing technological provisions such as computers and databases to retrieve information (and in a quest to enhance information literacy), information literacy skills can be used for locating, accessing, and evaluating clinical data. Specifically,

the skillscan be utilized in understanding how software such as computerized documentation works; leading to the realization of electronic medical records (EMR) (APRN Joint Dialogue Group Report, 2008). Furthermore, technology and information literacy can be used in situations involving patient care technologies such as medication dispensing, pumps, and monitors. In so doing, the rate of medication errors is likely to reduce.Another sector in which technology and information literacy can be used concerns the aspect of Telehealth. In situations, where patients are located far away from the zone of health care provision, applications such as teleconferencing, interactive video, computers, and telephones can be used to foster symptom management, early detection of deteriorations in health, and enhanced self-care management

(Glinkowski& Saracen, 2010).Indeed, telenursing as an additional application aids in retaining the nurses through job satisfaction; conforming to specifications by the American Nurses Association (2013).Technology and information literacy can also be used in promoting accuracy – during the treatment process. Specifically, the date- and time-stamping of records can be adopted alongside the use of prompting systems or reminders in situations that require critical assessments of patient reactions. In so doing, it is evident that time can be saved while reducing the possibility of medication errors (APRN Joint Dialogue Group Report, 2008). By storing frequently-used protocols and treatment plans using Auto-Text applications, it is expected further that medication errors can be minimized.

Emerging Issues Regarding Community Health

Whereas technology and information literacy pose critical contributions to community health, demerits and dilemmas arise, especially in telenursing and other telehealth operations. For instance, telenursing continues to witness errors because changes in patient characteristics are unlikely to be detected during communication via telephone and other digital technologies (APRN Joint Dialogue Group Report, 2008). Also, some of the factors that could be attributable to changes in the patients' characteristics, which might occur in the target population's natural environment, are unlikely to be detected. Another concern is that technology and information literacy minimize face-to-face interaction between physicians and patients. This situation forms a significant challenge by preventing groups such as telenurses from making observations to obtain firsthand data. Indeed, the outcome is that the system may compromise success in the current healthcare sector that requires a patient-centered approach to care provision among community health providers. Another issue that poses a dilemma concerns ethical implications and the need for privacy. On the one hand, technological application is deemed to be effective because of real-time data provision (about alterations in patient conditions) (APRN Joint Dialogue Group Report, 2008). On the other hand, the privacy of patients and their families are likely to be compromised because the use of devices such as Asthmapolis sensors and glucose self-monitoring devices implies that the data and its signals could be sent to a central location in the care provider's office (Glinkowski& Saracen, 2010). As such, the patients might be monitored while they operate in areas such as homes, workplaces, and other social places; leading to compromised privacy.

Conclusion

In summary, technology and information literacy exhibit a direct correlation. Technological devices and applications such as computers and databases provide platforms from which information is located, retrieved, used, and evaluated effectively. In community health, situations and processes that call for the use of technology and information literacy include Telehealth, electronic health records, medication dispensing, pumps, monitors, and the date- and time-stamping of records. Through these applications, medication errors are likely to be reduced through symptom management, early detection of deteriorations in health, and better self-care management.

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