Transforming Nursing through EHRs: An Overview of the TIGER Initiative

Save to myBoK

by **Jill Burrington-Brown,** *MS, RHIA, FAHIMA*

In February 2007 the Technology Informatics Guiding Educational Reform (TIGER) Initiative, a group of nursing and informatics leaders, released a report titled "Evidence and Informatics Transforming Nursing: 3-year Action Steps toward a 10-Year Vision."[1] The report describes how the nursing profession should integrate informatics into the nursing skill set.

HIM professionals should be aware of the report's findings, as it outlines where nursing and HIM competencies connect.

On Board with e-HIM

The TIGER Initiative supports the goal of widespread adoption of electronic health records by 2014. As with many interdisciplinary healthcare professions, this goal has provided an impetus toward advancing nursing education, training, as well as a new vision.

The TIGER vision for the future is "nursing that bridges the quality chasm with information technology, enabling nurses to use informatics in practice and education to provide safer, higher-quality patient care."[2]
The report describes seven pillars of the TIGER vision:

1. Management and leadership—leadership that drives, empowers, and executes the transformation of healthcare

2. Education—collaborative learning that maximizes the possibilities of technology

3. Communication and collaboration—standardized processes to facilitate teamwork

4. Informatics design—evidence-based intelligence systems that support education and practice to foster quality care and safety

5. Information technology—affordable technologies that are universal, useable, useful, and standards-based

6. Policy—initiatives that support advocacy and achieving and resourcing an ethical culture of safety

7. Culture—a respectful, open system that leverages technology and informatics across multiple disciplines in an environment where all stakeholders trust each other to work together

This vision is one that all of healthcare can embrace. It is consistent with HIM's vision of the e-HIM® future:
Health information management is the body of knowledge and practice that assures the availability of health information to facilitate real-time healthcare delivery and critical health-related decision making for multiple purposes across diverse organizations, settings, and disciplines.[3]

Lending a Helping Hand

HIM and nursing professionals have much to offer each other in the journey toward an electronic healthcare industry. In fact, several recommendations from the TIGER Initiative speak directly to HIM. The report calls on HIM professionals to:

- Promote "information literacy" as a core competency for all nurses
- Participate in the evaluation and selection of evidence-based practice systems

- Collaborate with faculty in reforming curricula to increase information literacy and effective use of information resources
- Provide seamless access to published literature, knowledge, and systems that support the creation of new knowledge
- Establish outreach efforts to develop health information literacy with the public and healthcare consumers[4]

How Can HIM Meet These Requests?

HIM professionals have focused on information literacy by developing e-HIM guidelines and practice briefs. They should share this body of knowledge with nursing professionals in their organizations and use those documents as jumping-off points for continued discussions about core competencies of information literacy for all healthcare professionals.

HIM professionals have also long advocated for participation in the evaluation and selection of information systems. It is significant that the nursing profession also recognizes the value of HIM in system selection. HIM professionals should use and share the same guidelines and e-HIM practice briefs with nursing professionals in evaluating and selecting information systems.

HIM educators should look for opportunities to educate nursing faculty on e-HIM topics and how to present them to their organizations. Many HIM programs are located in the same divisions or departments as nursing programs, and there could be openings to collaborate, particularly when using information management systems.

HIM professionals should provide copies of e-HIM articles and practice briefs from AHIMA's Body of Knowledge to their nursing colleagues. They can share with the nursing leadership the topics and practice briefs [...]. There is a comprehensive list of recent practice briefs available to the public, including "The Complete Medical Record in a Hybrid Environment," "The Role of the Personal Health Record in the EHR," and "The New Electronic Discovery Civil Rule."

HIM professionals should also become knowledgeable about AHIMA's Consumer Education Campaign and the Web site myPHR.com. They can direct nursing colleagues to the program and site as sources for discussing personal healthcare and personal health records with patients.

They can contact state campaign coordinators to learn how they can get involved in helping consumers create and use their own personal health records. And they should consider how their facilities handle personal health information when patients bring personal health records to clinicians.

HIM professionals have an opportunity to be visible to nursing professionals and offer their expertise in health information. The profession should take every opportunity to share its resources and information. More on the TIGER Initiative may be learned at www.tigersummit.com.

Notes

1. Technology Informatics Guiding Educational Reform (TIGER) Initiative. "Evidence and Informatics Transforming Nursing: 3-year Action Steps toward a 10-Year Vision." February 2007. Available online at www.tigersummit.com.

2. Ibid.

3. AHIMA. "A Vision of the e-HIM Future: A Report from the AHIMA e-HIM Task Force." 2003. Available online in the FORE Library: HIM Body of Knowledge at www.ahima.org.

4. TIGER Initiative. "Evidence and Informatics Transforming Nursing."

Jill Burrington-Brown (jill.burrington-brown@ahima.org) is a practice manager at AHIMA.

Driving the Power of Knowledge