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Poster Presentation

Relieving the Burden of Nursing Documentation

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Nursing literature contains much work discussing the burden of nursing documentation, the time spent in the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) and the resultant decreased time in direct bedside patient care. As recently as January 2019, the Office of the National Coordinator is reviewing recommendations for reducing this burden set forth by the Alliance for Nursing Informatics. Additionally, The Joint Commission, as part of their strategy to address the nursing shortage crisis, is placing emphasis on reducing the documentation burden. Partnering with an EMR vendor, one health care organization is tackling this burden by developing and implementing an Essential Clinical Dataset. The work started with review of the Acute Care Adult Admission Intake and is continuing the work with the Head to Toe Systems Assessment. The dataset is developed after extensive literature review and regulatory compliance analysis. Once the dataset is defined, a gap analysis between the dataset and current state is completed with recommendations for changes to the EMR. Executive guidance is from the Chief Nursing Officers and a small steering committee of clinical and regulatory experts completes final review and approval. Partnering with the Lead Nurse educator finalizes the project with education/communication to nursing staff. Outcomes not only include a reduction in un-necessary data fields but also improved aesthetics and efficiency for documentation of the typical assessment and the ability to document the atypical when and if needed. Additional outcomes include an improvement in nursing satisfaction related to interaction with the EMR as well as decreased time.