Public Health Nurses: Ready for uniform data collection using electronic health data?

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(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

“No relationships to disclose”
Objectives

• Analyze data sharing role of public health nurses (schools)
• Identify challenges to adoption of electronic data collection and sharing among public health nurses
• Formulate one action towards moving public health nurses toward increased data sharing
Electronic Documentation Systems

- Reduce cost
- Improve accountability, communication, value, efficiency
- Prevent errors
- Expand access

School Nursing: Johnson & Bergren, 2011; Johnson & Guthrie, 2012
A Joint NASN & NASSNC Initiative

Step Up & Be Counted!

100% Students Counted
100% School Nurses Participating
Purpose

• Determine current use and skills of nurses working in the public domain; along with willingness to change related to EHRs and use of technology
Method

• Biennial online survey to school nurses
• Convenient, national sample
• Analyzed by employer (education, public health, health care system) and age
Results

- N=6841 participated (44.1% 41-50 years)

Source: NASN 2013 School Nurse Survey
Does your district/school use an electronic student management system?

- Yes, a student management system but not specific to health: 45%
- Yes, a school health specific system: 38%
- Yes, a locally developed program: 7%
- Yes, but not sure what type: 9%
- No: 5%
- I do not provide direct school health services to children: 2%

Source: NASN 2013 School Nurse Survey
## Important Components of EHR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Absolutely needed</th>
<th>Needed</th>
<th>Would be nice</th>
<th>Definitely not needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIPAA/FERPA compliant</td>
<td>81.2% (5,357)</td>
<td>11.7% (771)</td>
<td>5.2% (343)</td>
<td>1.9% (125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separate charting for each person (RN, LPN, aide, etc)</td>
<td>56.9% (3,729)</td>
<td>20.3% (1,332)</td>
<td>12.6% (826)</td>
<td>10.2% (672)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information specific to student health only available to appropriate persons</td>
<td>80.9% (5,416)</td>
<td>15.7% (1,051)</td>
<td>2.5% (165)</td>
<td>0.9% (61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interoperability (ability to share data with other school or health systems)</td>
<td>38.4% (2,520)</td>
<td>31.3% (2,053)</td>
<td>23.4% (1,537)</td>
<td>6.8% (445)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to develop Individualized Health Plans within system</td>
<td>54.3% (3,634)</td>
<td>29.6% (1,984)</td>
<td>15.3% (1,021)</td>
<td>0.8% (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documenting Individualized Health Plans</td>
<td>58.0% (3,883)</td>
<td>29.0% (1,945)</td>
<td>12.4% (827)</td>
<td>0.6% (41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documenting of immunizations</td>
<td>80.0% (5,373)</td>
<td>13.8% (929)</td>
<td>4.2% (283)</td>
<td>2.0% (131)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NASN 2013 School Nurse Survey
Current Practice

• **Data Management**: 86.8% top 5 activity
  – only 20.1% wish it was

• **Research**: 90.8% would like to
  – (9.9% currently)

Source: NASN 2013 School Nurse Survey
Training Needs

• Not ranked in the top 5
  – #18 Technology (ipads, tablets, apps) (14.1%)
  – #20 Data collection/electronic health records (13.2%)

• 27.2% want local expert technology resource nurse (ranked 4th)

Source: NASN 2013 School Nurse Survey
Qualitative Remarks

• Many expressed willingness to change, but faced challenges: lack of proper technology and training.

• Some reported having to initiate software training.

• Many expressed apprehension in asking for training or needed reports from vendors.
Once the data is collected, how do you use it? (Check all that apply)

Source: NASN 2013 School Nurse Survey
How do you communicate with parents/guardians? (Check all that apply)

- 99.7% I do not provide direct school health services to children
- 63.7% Emails
- 33.7% Phone calls
- 0.3% Newsletter
- 44.5% Website

Source: NASN 2013 School Nurse Survey
Discussion

• Follow up study for further understanding of needs, and readiness to use EHRs
• Ensure public and school health included in EHR discussions (interoperability)
• Investigate technology to communicate with parents
Conclusion

• **Role:** School Nurses are a source of rich data for school and community

• **Challenges:** Lack of understanding, need for training

• **Action:** Further training on advocating for health specific EHR, using technology, and using the data
“One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.”

-Elbert Hubbard

(http://ebookfriendly.com/best-technology-quotes/)
References
