

The NNDS initiative established the following working groups to advance the initiative.

Policy Working Group

Coming out of the initial 2016 symposium the Policy Working Group developed and submitted a proposal to the CNA for approval. In 2016, the CNA Board of Directors supported and approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) advocate for the adoption of two standardized clinical reference terminologies, ICNP® and SNOMED-CT, as well as a standardized approach to nursing documentation in all clinical practice settings across Canada, specifically C-HOBIC and LOINC Nursing physiologic assessment panel.

The Policy Working Group continues to network with national organizations around the value of clinical data standards for nursing and healthcare in Canada.

Clinical Practice Working Group

To advance the uptake and use of clinical data standards in Canada the NNDS Clinical Working Group focused on understanding what items are currently included in admission assessments and exploring opportunities for standardization. Since there were many initiatives underway across Canada in long-term care, home care, community care and mental health related to the implementation of interRAI instruments, as a first step the group decided to focus on examining opportunities for clinical data standards within the acute care admission assessment for Med-Surg patients. Subsequent to this work the group wanted to understand if there was a subset of essential clinical items that could be collected using a standardized format across the healthcare system (primary care to home care) to facilitate clinical decision-making, patient engagement in self-care, and to support care transitions.

In the fall of 2019, a survey was distributed to nurse leaders from across Canada who had expertise in and an understanding of the value of using clinical data standards to:

- identify items that should always be included in admission assessments.
- identify items that could be considered for deletion or collection only when necessary.
- examine who is best suited to assess specific information.
- understand the standards being utilized for acute care admission assessments.

The survey findings are available at: <https://www.cna-aiic.ca/en/nursing-practice/the-practice-of-nursing/nursing-informatics>

NNDS Clinical Administration Working Group

Senior nursing leaders identified the need to have a better understanding of the impact of information and communication technologies (ICT) on nursing practice within their organizations. Furthermore, many nursing executives reported not understanding the value of clinical data standards both within their organization as well as across the continuum of care. As a beginning point a literature review was conducted to identify nursing informatics competencies that may be relevant to nurses in leadership positions in Canada. Subsequently, a scoping review was conducted, and a list of competencies used in other geographical contexts was identified.

Strudwick, G., Nagle, L., Kassam, I., Pahwa, M., Sequeria, L. (2019). Informatics competencies for nurse leaders: A scoping review. *Journal of Nursing Administration*, 49 (6), 323-330.

This list was used as a starting point for identifying those relevant to the Canadian context, and a Delphi study was conducted in 2018 and 2019 to narrow, adapt and validate these competencies. A total of 24 competency statements resulted from this work.

Strudwick, G., Nagle, L., Morgan, A., Kennedy, M.A., Currie, L.M., Lo, B., White, P. (2019). Adapting and validating informatics competencies for senior nurse leaders in the Canadian context: Results of a Delphi study. *International Journal of Medical Informatics*, 129, 211-218.

Currently, efforts are underway to develop an instrument to support nurse leaders in completing self-assessments of their informatics competencies.

NNDS Education Working Group

New nursing graduates and the existing nursing workforce need to be informatics savvy particularly related to standardized terminologies and standardized clinical documentation tools. In 2012 the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) published entry-to-practice informatics competencies for registered nurses. In addition, efforts have been directed to engaging nursing faculty to advance their understanding and approaches to integrating these competencies into undergraduate nursing curricula. While the existing nursing workforce has been largely exposed to the use of ICT in practice settings, the use of EHRs in health-care settings does not equate to informatics competency, particularly as it relates to the use of standardized nursing data and documentation to inform clinical nursing judgment and the use of evidence derived from standardized data and documentation. The NNDS Education Working Group continues to work with the CASN to incorporate strategies to educate the nursing profession on using clinical data standards across Canada.

NNDS Research Working Group

The Canadian informatics research community remains limited when it comes to research related to the adoption and use of standardized terminologies. The NNDS Research Working Group focused on exploring ways to leverage the research process to advance the agenda for uptake of clinical nursing data standards. They identified that much of the research that had been done was focused on how to acquire and implement HIT and less around informatics from a nursing practice perspective. The NNDS Research Working Group realized the value in identifying research priorities and by making declarative statements that others can use it to justify their studies and legitimize the need for funding. This group undertook a modified Delphi study to identify research priorities from having access to standardized clinical data. The top research priorities identified addressed the need to: examine the value of using standardized clinical data to support clinical decision making and care planning skills processes; understand the impact of using clinical data standards on nurses' work practices and work patterns/workflow; identify clinical outcomes associated with the quality of nursing care that are important to patients, which can be used to evaluate the quality of care provided by nurses; and to explore the preferred formats and presentation of data and real time reports that would be of value to support nursing decision-making in practice and administration.