



ABSTRACT:

STREAM: NURSES AND E-HEALTH

SPEAKERS: **HELEN EDWARDS**, RN, BA, MN
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Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids).

Implementing a Clinical Information System – The Role of Informatics Nurses

It is essential that staff have the appropriate tools to support evidence-based practices and processes, as well as clinical decision-making at the point of documentation. The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) has embarked on a multi-phase, multi-year implementation project of a new Clinical Information System to replace the legacy system in place since 1993.

The primary goal of the transition is to provide the most effective enabling technology to accomplish the hospital's mission, vision and values and move electronic health records to a higher plane – with more users, better acceptance and increased system sophistication.

In November 2008, the second phase of the implementation project went "live". This included all inpatient areas that had been using the legacy system - the functionality included full CPOE, eMAR and some clinical documentation (admission assessments, patient care summaries and communication, discharge summaries, leave of absence documents, etc).

Informatics Nurses are key to successful implementations of electronic systems as their nursing knowledge and skills ensure that systems are built and implemented to support and reflect clinical practices, patient care processes and workflows.

This presentation focused on the roles of the Informatics Nurses (Application Specialists and Education Specialists) in the design and implementation of the new clinical information system, including nursing informatics structure (for context), communication, education and support strategies, as well as key success factors.

BIO:

HELEN EDWARDS, RN, BA, MN is the Director, Clinical Informatics and Technology at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids). She has worked at SickKids for over 28 years, in her current role for almost 6 years.

Helen describes the focus of her current role as influencing and driving the technological transformation within the hospital - ensuring that clinical and corporate computer applications support and reflect the practices and workflows for nursing and professional services staff. In addition, Helen's role encompasses establishing evidence-based practices that drive the processes of acquiring and implementing new medical device technologies, to ensure optimal integration of technology with nursing practice.

CAROL WARREN, RN, is the Manager of Informatics Education at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids). Carol has worked at SickKids for over 22 years, in her current role for over 3 years. Carol is responsible to provide vision, direction, leadership, implementation, and evaluation in all areas of clinical and corporate application system education. This refers to the functionality of various applications as well as their use in the context of the hospital practices, processes, policies and procedures. Carol additionally holds certificates in education and human behaviour.