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STUDY GUIDE
MODULE 2

Nursing Informatics in the Philippines
Developed by: JT Paguio

Health informatics in the Philippines has been developing along with the use of emerging technologies. Despite the exponential growth in its application globally, the application of information technology in the Philippine healthcare system has been limited to technological advancements in in-hospital settings and treatment-focused. However, recognizing the significant opportunities to facilitate better healthcare services, policies and infrastructures have emerged over the last two decades. This module focuses on the development of Nursing Informatics in the country and the issues that have posed challenges to its full realization.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of Module 2, you should be able to:
1. Explain the impact of the Philippine eHealth Strategic Framework on healthcare delivery and the nursing workforce.
2. Describe eHealth solutions applied in the country.
3. Expound on the issues affecting the full implementation of eHealth and NI in the country.

Topics
Nursing Informatics in the Philippines
After learning about the origins of Nursing Informatics (NI) and its development on a global scale, let's give focus on this specialty's growth in the country. Although the use of information and communication technology (ICT) has always been part of the delivery of Nursing care, the application and integration of information technology in Philippine Nursing only took off in the late 1990s. A brief introduction to NI's history in the country was put together by the Philippine Nursing Informatics Association (Sumabat, K.R., 2010). However, NI's formal recognition as an area that necessitates a separate course in the BSN program was formalized by CHED CMO 5 (s2008).

Philippine eHealth Strategic Framework
Recognizing the important role of ICT in the timely and accessibility of safe and quality healthcare, a concerted effort to push for policies began in the early 2000s among different stakeholders led by the Department of Health and the Department of Science and Technology. Through the Joint National Governance on eHealth, the DOH and DOST, guided by the resolutions from the World Health Assembly (WHO-ITU), developed the Philippine eHealth Strategic Framework and Plan (PeHSFP). Based on the 2013 - 2017 PeHSFP, the eHealth vision for the country:

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By 2020 eHealth will enable widespread access to health care services, health information, and securely share and exchange patients' information in support to safer, quality health care, more equitable, and responsive health system for all the Filipino people by transforming the way information is used to plan, manage, deliver and monitor health services.

In particular, the plan foresees the integration of ICT in the delivery of all healthcare services through safer and quality care for all health consumers; ensuring better-informed decisions for healthcare providers; and the ability to conduct effective program development, implementation & monitoring.

To achieve the vision, specific eHealth components were defined, including:

1. Governance
2. Legislation, policy, and compliance
3. Standards and interoperability
4. Strategy and Investment
5. Infrastructure
6. Human Resource
7. eHealth Solutions

At present, eHealth is integrated into the healthcare delivery system, including health science education and continuing professional development. Current initiatives to strengthen eHealth in the country can be explored in ehealth.ph.

Challenges to the implementation of eHealth and health/nursing informatics in the country

As you are greatly aware, the targets for eHealth integration in Philippine healthcare have yet to be achieved completely. Recognizing the prevailing limitations with resources, policies, infrastructure, and user/consumer uptake, continued evaluation, monitoring, and update are needed to ensure that there is an equitable and responsive health system for Filipinos.

Because of the pandemic, eHealth has emerged to have the greatest potential to ensure access to healthcare services given the high risk for cross-infection. Policies have pushed for its comprehensive integration. One of which is House Bill 7422. Likewise, healthcare professionals, including nurses, have become more active in delivering services online. Despite limited evidence on the Philippine context, there are available studies that show how NI can be delivered (i.e., Mindcare Club; Haupeltshofer, Egerer, and Seeling, 2020)

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Finally, papers have identified multiple factors that contribute to the uptake of eHealth in the country. Here are some suggested papers:

1. Marcelo,etal.,2020. Factors Affecting Adoption of a Telemedicine Device by Primary Care Health Workers in the Philippines
2. Ongkeko,A.2017. Community Health Information and Tracking System (CHITS): Lessons from Eight Years Implementation of a Pioneer Electronic Medical Record System in the Philippines
3. Go,KH,2020. A Reflection About Telehealth in the Philippines

Learning Activities

1. Read the recommended content discussed above and refer to the linked resources.
2. Work with your group in updating and improving your group project.
3. Participate in the Discussion Forum.

Instructions:

- Post your answers to the question posed for your group.
- Respond to at least two (2) posts within your group. *Deadline: Sept 13, 2023 6PM*
- Respond to at least one (1) post across* other groups. *Deadline Sept 20, 2023 6PM*
- Make sure to indicate your reference/s, particularly to your initial post.
- There is no need to summarize group outputs.
- Feel free to use the materials shared in the Module and use other materials to enhance your forum response/s.

*Note: Across group with different question

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Forum Questions:

- The Philippine eHealth Strategic Framework indicated several health systems goals/challenges and their respective eHealth outcomes (page 8). Informed by the resources shared with you in this module, answer the following:

  Group 1, 2, 3

  1. To what extent have these outcomes been achieved?

  Group 4, 5

  2. What is a major challenge to the achievement of the eHealth outcome?

- The Philippine eHealth Strategic Framework outlines eHealth components (p.10) that serve as building blocks to achieve the vision of... "eHealth will enable widespread access to health care services, health information, and securely share and ex- change patients' information in support to a safer, quality health care, more equitable and responsive health system for all the Filipino people by transforming the way information is used to plan, manage, deliver and monitor health services." Select one (1) eHealth component and answer the following:

  - *Group 6, 7*

    1. How is this component reflected in the current healthcare system?

  - *Group 8, 9*

    2. How can this component be enhanced to ensure the achievement of the eHealth vision?

References:

McGonigle, D., & Mastrian, K. G. (2017). *Nursing informatics and the foundation of knowledge*. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Other references are linked in-text.