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Congruency between educators' teaching beliefs and an electronic health record teaching strategy

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Background: Technology has changed healthcare institutions into automated settings with the potential to greatly enhance the quality of healthcare. Implementation of electronic health records (EHRs) to replace paper charting is one example of the influence of technology on healthcare worldwide. In the past decade nursing higher education has attempted to keep pace with technological changes by integrating EHRs into learning experiences. Little is known about educators' teaching beliefs and the use of EHRs as a teaching strategy.

Aim: This study explores the composition of core teaching beliefs of nurse educators and their related teaching practices within the context of teaching with EHRs in the classroom.

Methods: A collective case study and qualitative research approach was used to explore and describe teaching beliefs of seven nurse educators teaching with EHRs. Data collection included open-ended, audio-taped interviews and non-participant observation. Content analysis of transcribed interviews and observational field notes focused on identification of teaching belief themes and associated practices.

Findings: Two contrasting collective case studies of teaching beliefs emerged. Constructivist beliefs were dominant, focused on experiential, student-centered, contextual and collaborative learning, and associated with expanded and a futuristic view of EHRs use. Objectivist beliefs focused on educators' control of the context of learning and were associated with a constrained, limited view of EHRs. Constructivist educators embrace technological change, an essential ingredient of educational reform.

Conclusions: We encourage nurse educators to adopt a constructivist view to using technology in teaching in order to prepare nurses for a rapidly changing, technologically sophisticated practice.

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Assessing Saudis' knowledge and attitudes towards seeking health information online

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eHealth, or the use of information and communication technologies for health purposes, has proven its efficiency and effectiveness in improving the quality of health services. This concept is newly emerging in Saudi Arabia where a lot of organizations are exerting efforts to develop it. Unfortunately, most of these efforts are concentrated on inter-professional communication and education. This raised a need for such invention to be used as a tool for health promotion. This study assessed the knowledge and attitudes of Saudi population towards e-Health and online health information. A web-based survey was designed and participants were invited to fill the survey thorough social media means. 358 participants responded to the survey. The majority of them (87%) admitted that they use the Internet to search for health related information. Of those, approximately 84% revealed that their main purpose for seeking health information online was to learn more about certain health conditions. The most important finding was that around 76% of the respondents were not satisfied with the current situation, and they believed they needed to learn more about reliable eHealth resources on the web. The findings showed positive attitudes towards searching for and acquiring health-related information online. They also showed that there is a huge need to provide Saudis with educational programs that raise their awareness about reliable and trust-worthy online health resources. Since e-health concept is new in Saudi Arabia, further research is needed to evaluate the professionals' and the public's perceptions toward these kinds of online tools.

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