

3rd World Congress on

NURSING EDUCATION, PRACTICE & RESEARCH

May 16-17, 2018 | Montreal, Canada

Development of a national suite of nursing and midwifery quality care-metrics and indicators using consensus methodology

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Background: Due to the complex nature of healthcare, measurement of the contribution of nurses and midwives to care has historically been challenging. In Ireland, the HSE National Office of Nursing and Midwifery Services have addressed this challenge by undertaking robust research to determine the important aspects of nursing and midwifery care processes that should be measured to enable improvement in the quality and safety of patient care.

Aim: The aim of this study was to develop seven suites of nursing and midwifery quality care process metrics and associated indicators specific to Acute Hospital Care, Midwifery, Children's Nursing, Older Persons Nursing, Community and Public Health Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, and Intellectual Disability Nursing.

Design: A four phase study design approach consisting of a systematic review of the literature, a two-stage e-Delphi process and face to face final consensus meetings.

Findings: Seven suites of Quality Care Metrics and associated indicators have been identified. The new suites will be uploaded to the online audit system entitled "Test Your Care" and will be available for national roll out to all publicly funded HSE nursing and midwifery locations in quarter 3 2018.

Conclusions: Consensus methodology and a systematic review of the literature was a successful strategy to identify nursing and midwifery Quality Care Metrics.

Biography

Anne Gallen is the Director of Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development for the Health Service Executive in the North West of Ireland. This role entails the strategic development of nursing and midwifery, enabling professional and practice development; and building the capacity and leadership of nurses, midwives and healthcare support staff. She previously held roles in the area of workforce planning, nursing management and part-time lecturing. She has led on and supported the development of a range of key national nursing and midwifery initiatives for the HSE. She also contributes to the development of nursing policy in the Department of Health and to regulatory governance with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland. She has recently completed her Doctorate in Governance and her research examined the preparedness and participation of nurses and midwives in quality and safety.

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