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Nursing Informatics for the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities

The scope and standards of practice for nursing informatics has changed dramatically over the previous two decades. Today's nurse informaticians must have diverse skills and expertise that extend across a wide range of sub-specialties and reach far beyond clinical care to systems development and implementation, research, continuous quality improvement, decision support, workflow analysis, project management, human-computers interaction and much more. To prepare nurses for leadership roles in informatics, academic and industry leaders are collaborating to create robust, meaningful programs of study with opportunities for active learning and processes that are informed by industry needs. The need for appropriate training and expertise presents many challenges, but opportunities for nurses with informatics expertise have never been greater. We will review changes in the scope and practice of nursing informatics, examine current challenges facing the nursing workforce with regard to informatics, and explore opportunities for nurse informaticians as leaders in health care systems and delivery processes of the 21st Century.

Biography

Heather J Sobko is internationally recognized for her leadership in Nursing Informatics and for developing innovative tools for patient engagement, promotion of patient-centered care, quality improvement, care transitions and advanced illness and multi-morbidities. She is an Associate Professor and Director of Nursing Informatics at the University of Utah, College of Nursing, a Fellow of the National Readmission Prevention Collaborative and the Founder of IVR Care Transition Systems, Interactive Health Robots (i-HEROS) and the Cancer Survivor Research Collaborative. He has numerous publications and is a Reviewer for several peer reviewed journals.

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