

NDNP 9001 Informatics Problem Solving Assignment

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Improving Accuracy and Saving Time: Electronic Vitals Documentation Executive Summary

Vitals signs are perhaps the most fundamental component of patient evaluation. Although there is overwhelming agreement that vital signs are crucial to both detecting and responding to patient status, the methods in which vital signs are documented in electronic health records (EHR) has received limited attention in the research literature. Current practice is to document vital signs on a piece of paper as they are being taken and then later transcribed to the EHR. This practice utilizes poor use of clinical time, increases the chance of errors and causes a delay in clinical decision making possibly leading to escalation of care.

This project intends to use evidence based technology methods to electronically document vital signs in real time. This method of adopting an informatics based solution in a general medical surgical unit will demonstrate quality improvement, improved safety and cost containment.

Abbreviations used in this presentation:

EHR: Electronic Health Record UCMC: University of Cincinnati Medical Center

EWS: Early Warning Score EVD: Electronic Vitals Documentation EMR: Electronic Medical Record

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