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Informatics – BSN Competency

Informatics in nursing is important because it uses of technology and information to define, identify, communicate and manage data, knowledge and information. It is also used to support decision-making and reduce error. Technology and skills in informatics are essential for communicating and delivering safe patient care. This is because some examples of nursing informatics include computerized provider order entries or electronic medical records that have essential information that can support patient care. Informatics in nursing improves health systems which in turn contributes to the improvement of health outcomes for patients.

Informatics is a competency I learned throughout my clinical experiences. As nursing students, before showing up to clinicals we are typically provided videos or guides on how the hospital manages their information, especially patient information. We are shown how to navigate through the electronic health record and how to document and plan patient care. As we get on the floor, we gain more experience by going through the information on our own and learning where all the data and information is that are important for our patient's care. As we grow in our nursing career, we will most likely learn further skills in informatics where we can individually contribute to the design, implementation, and evaluation of informatics.

I can continue showing competence in my practice by using the electronic medical records during my clinical rotations to document patient information. I will continue documenting vital signs, I&O's, physical assessments, medication administration, and patient

progress. I will also begin providing information from the medical records, such as lab results, to patients once I become more comfortable in the clinical setting. I am also able to use this competence in my practice by monitoring patient information. For example, during clinicals, I noticed the new lab results came in and they were much better than the day before. I notified my nurse because in order to proceed with treatment, we needed the results.

