

**Delaware Valley Nursing Computer Network (DVNCN) Conference:
Technology's Impact on Nursing and Patients
November 6, 2009**

Lisa Anne Bove, MSN, RN – BC and Deb Dobransky BSN, RN -BC

On November 6, 2009, the Delaware Valley Nursing Computer Network (DVNCN) along with Main Line Health (MLH) and Abington Memorial Hospital (AMH) presented an all day conference entitled Technology's Impact on Nursing and Patients at Abington Memorial Hospital in Abington PA. Over 160 nurses from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and even one from Connecticut participated in the learning and networking activity. Most attendees worked in hospitals in the Greater Delaware Valley area.



Patty Berkes and Marie Kania

The day started with an introduction from Allison Ferrin, Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer at AMH. Allison shared some insight from the CIO perspective about how they implemented CPOE when they used a clinical informatist for the first time as project manager.



Allison Ferrin Abington Memorial Hospital CIO

After a brief introduction from the conference coordinator, Lisa Anne Bove, MSN, RN-BC, our keynote speaker presented. Susan K Newbold, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, FHIMSS, Associate Professor, Nursing Informatics, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing presented "Technology on the Healthcare Horizon" during which she highlighted the overall benefits of technology. Dr Newbold entertained the group with haikus that really described how technology has impacted us all. In addition, she highlighted a number of newer technologies like robots that can, for example, deliver medications, count OR items. She also talked about wireless printers used by phlebotomists to help draw the latest up-to-the-minute tests using positive patient ID and wireless printers.



Susan K Newbold, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, FHIMSS, Associate Professor, Nursing Informatics, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing

Other technology that Dr Newbold discussed included:

- Nurse Communication – wireless communication that allows nurses to communicate with other nurses
- Robots – to deliver medications and other supplies, and count OR tools and supplies
- RFID – some uses for radio frequency identification include newborn tracking, supply tracking and more
- Smart Rooms – rooms that are enabled to allow care givers to automatically log on when they enter the room and the patient to have access to information right from their bedside
- Consumer health informatics – interactive internet sites run and used by patients and their families
- Rex, the talking pillbox – new device that speaks 30 languages and gives patients information about their medications
- Patient Portals
- Medical USB Data Card – ability to store medical information on a preconfigured device
- Social Networking like using YouTube for interactive training sessions.

Dr Newbold also discussed several applications that have been developed either by nursing or with nursing design including CPOE, digital wound images at the VA hospital, and the Nightingale and ExcelCare (based on Pennsylvania) both staffing and scheduling systems.

Dr Newbold closed with a discussion on the Nursing IT Innovation Award sponsored by CARING Health Data Management. This award recognizes nursing's contribution to information technology. To be awarded, the submission has to meet the goal of innovation, have significant involvement from nursing and show measureable some results and outcomes. The 2009 Award winner was Butler Memorial Hospital in Butler, Pennsylvania and should reduction in documentation time and improved communication and potential for infection through IV Nurse communication and documentation.

After Dr Newbold's keynote presentation, participants were able to choose one of five breakouts ranging from CPOE to Downtime. Breakouts were added this year to let participants learn and talk to other nurse informaticists that have the same questions. The topics included:

- CPOE and eMAR presented by Debra J. Dobransky BSN, RN- BC, IS Project Manager, Main Line Health
- Downtime Readiness presented by Patty Berkes, MSN, RN-BC, Nursing Practice Specialist-Informatics, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Growing your NI Role and Preparing for NI Certification presented by Susan K. Newbold, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, FHIMSS, Vanderbilt University and Deborah L. Evenson RN-BC, RNC-NIC, Main Line Health
- To Cart or Not to Cart presented by Carolyn Zsoldos, RN-BC, Clinical Support Specialist & Debra Long, MSN, RN-BC, Clinical Support Specialist, Christiana Care
- Ready, Set, Go! Setting up your organization for a successful implementation presented by Diane Humbrecht, MSN, RN-BC, Nurse Director, Informatics & Diane Waeltz, BSN, RN, Senior Clinical Informatics Specialist, Abington Memorial Hospital



After boxed lunch and networking by the participants, Michele (Mickey) McGlynn, Director of Government and Industry Affairs, Siemens Healthcare-Health Services presented "Directly from the "Meaningful Use" Workgroup". Mickey started with an overview of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) and how it impacts healthcare. She described ways the hospitals and physicians will receive their incentives from the \$17 Billion dollars available. The other \$2 Billion dollars will be spent on the infrastructure needed for oversight as well as some grants and loans programs. Some of the grants will be used to increase the training to help build more healthcare technology professionals.

To qualify for incentives, sites need to be using a certified electronic medical record (EMR) in a meaningful way. Meaningful use is defined as using a certified "EHR" in a meaningful way (including e-prescribing for physicians), the ability to demonstrate that your certified "EHR" can provide electronic exchange to improve quality and care and be able to report on clinical quality measure as defined by the Secretary. There are 98 meaningful use items defined by the secretary. The first monies will be paid out for FY2011 meaningful use and then the bar will be raised every two years after that. On the Medicare Physician Payout, Physicians get 75% for their allowable charges for part B charges for a payment year to a max of \$44K. In addition to the Medicare monies, there are also monies from Medicaid. Physicians can qualify on both Medicare and Medicaid, but Medicaid pays \$63K per physicians.

Mickey then went on to discuss meaningful use. It is based on 5 priorities which creates the framework for meaningful use. The 5 priorities are:

- Improve Quality, Safety, Efficiency and Reduce Health Disparities

- Engage Patients and Families
- Improve Care Coordination
- Improve Population and Public Health
- Ensure Adequate Privacy and Security Protection for Personal Health Information

Mickey talked about "HIT Years' – in 'HIT Years', 2011 is right around the corner. The first look at the requirements will be in December 2009, but will not be final until April 2010. IN addition, Mickey talked about the sites that reach meaningful in 2011 will share that publicly on their web sites, etc. like they do other awards. She closed with a discussion on what we all should be doing

- attend HIMSS and vendor webcasts,
- establish ARRA governance and structure to prioritize at your facility,
- create a roadmap based on the anticipated definition of meaningful use,
- plan for health information exchange and
- reassess your current HIPAA policies and procedures.

Elizabeth Elkind, PhD, MSN, MBA, RNC-OB, Associate Clinical Professor, College of Health Professions and Social Work, Department of Nursing, Temple University presented the closing session entitled "Technology and e-Learning Gadgets and Wizardry". Dr Elkind discussed different ways the technology is used today in both nursing schools and hospitals. She started with a discussion on learning management systems (LMS). She told us that many facilities don't know all the functionality of the LMS and suggested that we look. She also discussed the use of Podcasts for patient and staff education and Wikis clinical practice like policies and procedures management. Other applications such as e-Portfolio , Webcasts, Virtual Worlds like Second Life, Blogs, Tweeter and Twitter are all technology that can be used in clinical environments.

Dr Elkind also talked about some of the challenges of using these applications in healthcare. For example, is patient information included? If so, were HIPAA guidelines followed? Are there any legal or financial ramifications? It is important to resolve these challenges prior to implementing them. Evaluate the impact before just rolling them out. Pick and choose wisely, technology isn't the only part of the answer for a better work environment. 48% of Americans are more stressed with the technology today.

DVNCN could not have held this conference with help from our sponsors. Special thanks go to Main Line Health especially for CEU support and for Abington Memorial Hospital for the great conference center. We would also like to thank all the other vendors who are supported our nursing informatics participants including AccuNurse, HumanScale InfoLogix, Metro Lionville, and Vitalize. Congratulations to Alma Barry from Thomas Jefferson who won the Vitalize gift basket.

The Delaware Valley Nursing Computer Network is an organization of nursing informatics professionals established to provide educational and professional opportunities for career growth. Membership in the organization is free.

