



# **Integration of Virtual Nursing Care at Metropolitan Healthcare System**

Overview

Joy McIlvaine

Regional School of Nursing

## Project Overview:

To maintain a top-rated nursing program at the Regional School of Nursing (RSON), accreditation standards, strong professional connections with the community, and nursing professors engage with emerging advances in healthcare delivery. The nursing school as part of the Metropolitan Healthcare System (MHS) prepares pre-licensure nursing students to be in service to the healthcare needs in the community. Healthcare is quickly changing as evidenced by trending advances in technologically together with integrated healthcare systems. Artificial intelligence is at the precipice of changing our culture, our community, and the way we engage with patients. This affects health monitoring systems that are in the hospital setting and virtual settings in the home and community.

Accreditation standards to align the educational curriculum with national standards. Specific standards related to Domain 8 on *Informatics and Healthcare Technologies* are outlined in *The Essentials* by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN, 2021). Communication technologies and information systems are required for optimizing healthcare decision making. Nursing Informatics and virtual monitoring have changed the landscape of nursing care. Whereas these tools do not replace the personal touch of nurses, these systems allow for more integrated healthcare management more now than ever before. Nursing schools and faculty require the knowledge and tools to be the vanguards of healthcare. The dean and nursing faculty have two strategies and propose to:

- 1) Prepare the faculty and future nursing school students with a foundation of courses on the appropriate use of information technologies, device integration, ambient documentation, telehealth, remote monitoring, and implications of artificial intelligence in the healthcare field (Cucci et al., 2025; McBride, 2025).
- 2) Educate future nurses the importance of regulatory compliance and ethics in the setting of information technology, computer assisted communication, social media, and patient rights for information and privacy (Association for Nursing Professional Development, n.d.; McBride, 2025).

The overarching need is to develop the leadership capacity in nursing school students and faculty and improvements in students' preparation. The plan is to create a program to elevate the professional development of the faculty aligned with accreditation standards to meet these strategic goals. On completion of the faculty development activity, the faculty will be charged with executing the plan to develop course materials integrated into the curriculum to help students access the fundamentals of new knowledge in information technologies, device integration, and virtual monitoring. Teaching pre-licensure students these elements of healthcare delivery is required to create nurses ready for the future with a vision them for professional success. Seniors in the program will develop a capstone project in Virtual Care Nursing and Nursing Informatics and present their projects at a Nursing Informatics Research Summit. The school requires grant funds to partner with experts and consultants in the field of Nursing Informatics.

This curriculum improvement includes the purchase of technological systems which also require funds. A full program includes informatics technological support, instructional design plans, and education plans. A funded grant by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN, n.d.) would support this program through improvements for emerging technologies, consultants, and instructional design. Success will be measured by maximal enrollment in a Nursing Informatics Summit, increased patient enrollment in the Virtual Care Home Program, and reduction in hospital

admissions for those patients. Together these goals are practical and achievable. Together, these goals support efficient decision support for clinicians will allow for better care for patients.

Nursing school faculty are key members of the Metropolitan Healthcare System through their influence on students, colleagues among nursing staff and facilitators of information. A summit will raise awareness on the use of virtual nursing as an expanded form of healthcare delivery on the virtual inpatient unit and in the home environment. This overview of a grant proposal aims to gain support for two key strategic plans and to obtain funding to support emerging technology use in the virtual care nursing space.

## Goals & Objectives Alignment Table:

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES
Participation in the Metropolitan Healthcare System Nursing Informatics Research Summit	Maximum enrollment of all senior Regional Nursing School (RSON) nursing students to present their senior projects on the advancement of nursing informatics topics.	Maximum numbers of seniors at RSON present their projects at the Nursing Informatics Research Summit through an invited podium presentation or poster presentation.
Outreach to the community to enroll patients in the Virtual Care Home Program due to expansion of the program due to RSON student's and graduate's participation.	Increased community utilization of the Virtual Care Home program	Increase community patient enrollment in the Virtual Care Home program by 20% by the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter (Q4) in 2027 due to RSON program outreach.
Support care for patients with chronic diseases, on palliative care plans, and behavioral health challenges in the community	Reduction in hospital 30-day readmissions of enrolled Virtual Care Home program patients	Decrease hospital 30-day readmission rates by 20% by Q4 2027 due to patients who were enrolled in the Virtual Care Home program.

## References:

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). (2021, April 6). *The essentials: Core competencies for professional nursing education*. <https://www.aacnnursing.org/essentials>
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). (n.d.) *Foundation for academic nursing grants & endowments*. <https://www.aacnnursing.org/foundation/grants-endowments>
- Association for Nursing Professional Development (ANPD). (n.d.). *Virtual nursing in patient care - Module 4: Regulatory considerations and NPD leader guidance*. [Webinar]. <https://learn.anpd.org/products/virtual-nursing-in-patient-care-module-4-regulatory-considerations-and-npd-leader-guidance>
- Cucci, F., Marasciulo, D., Romani, M., Soldano, G., Cascio, D., De Nunzio, G., Caldararo, C., Rubbi, I., Vitale, E., Lupo, R., & Conte, L. (2025). The contribution of artificial intelligence in nursing education: A scoping review of the literature. *Nursing Reports*, 15(8), 283. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nursrep15080283>
- McBride, M. (2025). Future of home-based care with the integration of technology into policy and practice. *British Journal of Community Nursing*, 30(10), 466–468. <https://doi.org/10.12968/bjcn.2025.0169>