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Nursing Informatics: Get Certified!

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THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

What is Nursing Informatics?

Nursing informatics (NI) is a specialty that integrates nursing science, computer science, and information science to manage and communicate data, information, knowledge and wisdom in nursing practice. NI supports consumers, patients, nurses, and other providers in their decision-making in all roles and settings. This support is accomplished through the use of information structures, information processes, and information technology (American Nurses Association (ANA), 2008)

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What is a *Nurse Informaticist*?

"Nurse Informaticists manage and communicate nursing data and information to improve decision making by consumers, patients, nurses, and other health care providers (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010)."

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Is Nursing Informatics a new profession?

- Recognized as a specialty in early 90's.
- First computerized test in 1995.
- Only as new as computers, depends on technology experience (formal and informal) of the nurse.

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What does a NI Professional do?

- Assists Information Technology (IT) departments in designing Electronic Health Records (EHRs) that will be end-user friendly.
- Helps with implementation and roll-out of new hardware and software.
- Educates staff how to use new and present programs - often requires night, evening, and weekend hours to train each shift.
- Extracts data for reporting on quality measures.
- And (of course), – other related duties.

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Who hires Nursing Informatics Professionals?

- Hospitals
- Physician practices
- Vendors
- Consultants
- Community agencies

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Should I become a Nursing Informatics Professional?

- *Improvement in technology evolves continually. A Nursing Informatics professional must be interested in continual learning and roll-out of programs.*
- *Must have excellent communication skills, and able to interact with providers in various health professions.*
- *Should be knowledgeable in Windows, and most Microsoft office programs, including Word, Excel, and Access with an ability to use these programs to extract data for statistical purposes.*

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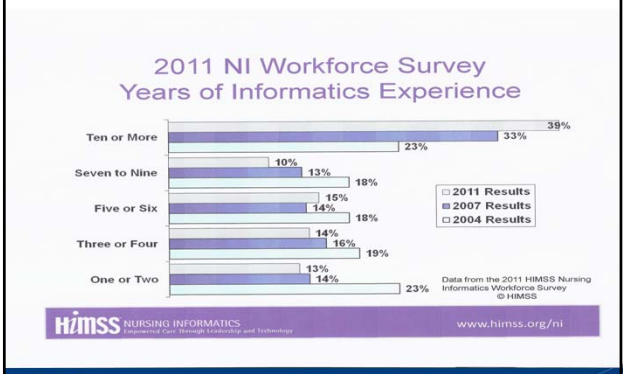

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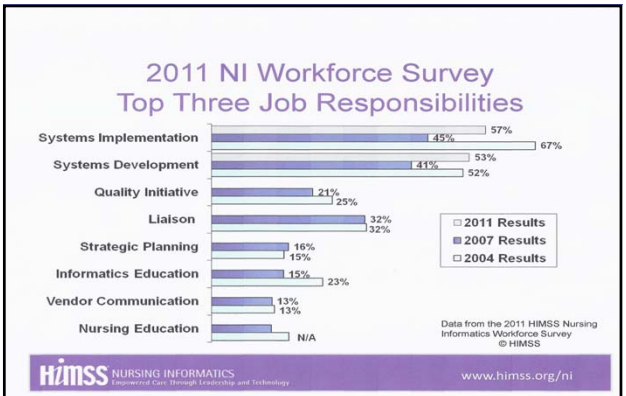

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Job Outlook for Nurse Informaticists

- *According to Explorehealthcareers.org, the job outlook is categorized as "Very Good."*
- *Susan Newbold, in an article for Advance for Nurses states "The job outlook for the informatics nurse is very favorable as many organizations are seeking to use technology to solve documentation issues and reduce errors."*
- *On Education-Portal.com an article indicates: "opportunities are expected to be plentiful in the coming years."*

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Salary of a Nurse Informaticist

According to HIMSS 2011 Workforce survey:

- Respondents with NI cert – $119,644.
- CPHIMS - $110,291.
- Average salary with or without certification: $93,000-$98,000.

2011 HIMSS Nursing Informatics Workforce Survey

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Local Graduate Programs

- Thomas Jefferson University: MSN, Nursing Informatics. http://www.jefferson.edu/nursing/education/graduate/nursing_informatics/index.cfm

  TJU Post Master's Certificate: http://www.jefferson.edu/nursing/education/graduate/post_master_of_science_in_nursing/
- University of Pennsylvania: MSN/Health Informatics Minor. http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/academic_programs/grad/masters/program_detail.asp?prid=28
- Drexel University: MS in Healthcare Informatics. http://www.drexel.com/online-degrees/information-sciences-degrees/cert-hci/index.aspx
- Temple University: MS in Healthcare Informatics. http://chpsw.temple.edu/him/home

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Local Certificate Programs

Non-degreed certificate programs are available designed to prepare participant in ICD coding, billing, EHR/EMR systems, becoming an "expert user", and helping individual practices and hospitals become more profitable and cost-efficient.

Health IT Certification: http://www.healthitcertification.com

Community College of Philadelphia (CCP): Medical Insurance Billing Proficiency Certificate.

Bucks County Community College (BCCC): Electronics Health Record Management Program.

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American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Requirements:

- Hold a current, active, RN license in your State.
- BSN or higher degree in nursing or a relevant field.
- Two years (or equivalent) of practice as a full time RN.
- Completion of 30 hours of Continuing Education in Informatics within the past 3 years.
- Additionally, one of the following:
  - Practiced 2,000 hours in informatics nursing within the last 3 years.
  - Practiced 1,000 hours in informatics nursing in the last 3 years and 12 semester hours of graduate level informatics courses.
  - Completed a graduate program in NI with 200 hours of faculty supervised practicum in informatics.

Certification:

- **RN-BC: Registered Nurse, Board Certified.**

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Healthcare Informatics and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Requirements:

- Baccalaureate degree and five years of associated information and management systems experience.
- Graduate degree and three years of associated information and management systems experience, with at least two of those years in healthcare.
- Associated experience includes administration/management, clinical information systems, e-health, info systems.

Certificate awarded:

- **Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CPHIMS)**

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Upcoming Review Courses/Study Aids

- Weekend Immersion in Nursing Informatics (WINI): http://icce.us/
  (Coming this weekend, March 16 & 17 - to Jefferson!)
- Drexel University -Nursing Informatics Review for Certification.
  http://drexel.edu/cne/conferencesCourses/courses/informatics-June2012
- ANCC:
  http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification/NurseSpecialties/Informatics.aspx
- NI Boot Camp (ANIA-CARING):
  http://www.tnhimss.org/downloads/Newbold_TN_HIMSS_2012.pdf
- Pearls Review Course
  https://www.pearlsreview.com/Informatics-Nursing-(RN-BC)

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Resources

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA):
http://www.amia.org

American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC):
www.nursecredentialing.org

American Nurses Informatics Association (ANIA-CARING):
http://www.ania-caring.org

Delaware Valley Nursing Computer Network (DVNCN):
http://dvncn.org/

Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS):
www.himss.org

Health IT Certification (HIT):
http://www.healthitcertification.com

Health IT.Gov -Office of National Coordinator (ONC)
http://www.healthit.gov/

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American Nurses Credentialing Center. (ANCC). www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification/ExamResources?Eligibility?Ecategory?InformaticsNurseEligibility.aspx

Bucks County Community College. http://www.bucks.edu/academics/coned/allcourseofferings/allied-list/ehealth-records/

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition, Registered Nurses, on the Internet at http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos083.htm

Community College of Philadelphia. www.ccp.edu/site/academic/catalog/degrees/medical-billing_prof-certificate.php

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