Promote Standards and Interoperability

1. Nurses should promote the use of standardized and accepted terminologies that address the documentation needs of the entire care team regardless of care setting. All care delivery settings should create a plan for implementing an ANA-recognized nursing terminology that is mapped to national standards i.e. SNOMED CT or LOINC.

2. Nurses should recommend consistent use of research-based assessment scales and instruments that are standardized through an international consensus body. The lack of standardization makes comparison of data challenging and adds to the burden of cost for copyright permissions and/or licensing of such instruments.

3. The ANA-recognized nursing terminologies should be consistently updated and made available to international standards organizations for translation and complete, comprehensive mapping.

4. Minimize use of free text documentation. When ‘within defined limits’ is used, discrete data elements should be stored within the EHR to enable decision support, research, analytics and knowledge generation.

Advance Quality eMeasures

5. Efforts to develop and design quality eMeasures must ensure the data to be collected and measured are aligned with the clinician’s workflow, not as additional documentation.

6. To advance nursing sensitive quality eMeasures, paper measure sets must be evaluated for appropriateness, and expectations set for which data should be collected, how the data are collected and the required terminologies to be used.

7. Initiatives and programs that define and promote new quality eMeasures and their requirements should allow time for testing and piloting with defined timeframes that consider all stakeholders.

8. Clinical quality eMeasures must support evidence-based, cost effective care that follows clinical practice guidelines and minimizes the negative impact on clinicians’ workflow.

Leverage Nursing Informatics Experts

9. Healthcare organizations should utilize nurse informaticists who will provide valuable insight into concept representation, design, implementation and optimization of health IT to support evidence-based practice, research and education.

10. To achieve the desired outcomes, nurse informaticists should have formal informatics training education and certification.

To learn more about HIMSS’ role in the transformation of nursing and data visit www.himss.org/ni.