**Educational Technology Needs Assessment**

Lakeesha Smith

Capella University

NURSFPX-6109

Julie Zetterquist

February 18,2022

**Educational Technology Needs Assessment**

In today’s learning environment, technology profoundly impacts students, allowing them to broaden horizons with equal footing across the globe. Technology is helping achieve the ever-changing needs of digital-age learners. Technology in nursing education is becoming an essential tool to empower creativity and access vital information for best practices, particularly with the new practice approach, such as evidence-based practice. Technology provides classroom resources, fosters curiosity, and brings students together through group discussions, assignments, and forums. A systematic review of educational technology needs to help gather the organization’s requirements and technological needs according to development structure. This paper discusses current educational technology, current usage in best practices, assessment metrics for technology benefits, technology alignment with the mission, and finalizes the changes needed to improve nursing education.

**Current Educational Technology Utilization**

At Villa Health Center, nurses are underutilizing technology within the hospital setting. For example, rising cases of the opioid crisis are partly contributed by poor monitoring and early detection of opioid abuse by the concerned providers. Attributed to poor use of technology when coordinating therapy with collaborating practitioners, including physicians, psychiatrists, physical therapists, social workers, nurses, pharmacists, and other subordinate staff. Considering the extent of the damage opioid has caused, it is evident that technology is not fully utilized to detect abuse and monitor opioid prescriptions. At my workplace, Dr. Connolly of Villa Health affirms that coordination can help enhance the clinical decision support system.

Moreover, physicians might be prescribing opioids for even post-surgical pain management even when not needed. The nurses are yet to realize the benefits of using technology for EBP to diagnose and treat patients as stipulated in modern medicine. Nurse education needs to emphasize the use of technology to facilitate EBP by enhancing students’ research skills. Currently, nurses use the electronic health system(EHR) to help with quick access to health records and coordinate efficient care. This approach is not enough; the nurses can do more than just access medical records, such as drug conciliation, EBP research, follow-up, and detect opioid or substance abuse.

**Comparison Between the Current State and Desired State of Educational Technology**

Most physicians have limited knowledge on effective opioid prescription and use, which increases widespread misuse of prescription opioids, synthetic opioids, and non-prescription opioids. Therefore, all primary physicians must prescribe pain management medication to understand how to implement the latest EBP research techniques, short-term and extended-release formulas, and risk factors. Opioid prescriptions need tools that control the prescription of controlled drugs. For example, integrating technology such as e-prescribing of Controlled Substances can help providers control and monitor over-prescription, which can help address the opioid crisis.

**Metrics Used**

Nurses with technological know-how have more benefits to the organization. E-prescribing technology enhances patient safety access to prescription records, reduces drug costs, and improves workflow. Using e-prescribing technology benefits student nurses, enhancing competence in practice (Poojitha & Bhoomadevi, 2021). There are various metrics used to determine educational technology benefits to students. Implementation of technology in education needs fund allocation, which considers budget within a long-term perspective. Sustainability is the key parameter, considering student learning, board presentation, professional development, and community meetings. Likewise, student achievement goals are an important metric in assessing the benefits of educational technology in an academic setting. Numerous solutions exist for improving outcomes and performance. For example, using scientific equipment Probeware provides immediate feedback and uses visuals to enhance lessons helping students analyze and interpret data.

**How Educational Technology aligns with Strategic Mission**

The healthcare organization's strategic mission is unique scope and purpose of operations. It is an essential statement that inspires hope and contributes to well-being and health through education, research, and clinical practice. Educational technology for opioids, such as E-prescribing technology, aligns with the organization’s mission, significant in pharmacological treatment to improve safety and outcomes through warnings and alerts. E-prescribing education technology offers drug utilization software, eliminates illegible-written prescriptions to reduce medical errors, and enables integration with medical records to monitor and control controlled substances. Teaching nurse students e-prescription technology improves their efficiency by streamlining their clinical practice with the organizational workflow to improve patient satisfaction, reduce cost, and improve outcomes. Therefore, educational technology is beneficial in preparing registered nurses, hence aligned with the organization's strategic mission of improving patient safety, reducing medical errors, and providing efficient and effective clinical services.

**Recommended Changes**

Even though the practicing nurses are already using technology in practice, such as EHRs, there is a need to integrate other essential tools to control and monitor patients' behaviors. Through simulation training, nurse educators can impart skills and knowledge on e-prescribing, enhancing their understanding of the collaborative treatment approach (Furby, 2020). Rapid advancements in medical technology require nurse educators to implement emerging technology to keep nurse students abreast and prepared for nursing practice. Therefore, using special fidelity mannequins in teaching BSN students enhances their understanding of core concepts that can help them navigate an ever-changing work environment (Denlea, 2017). Relevant educational technology helps students in practice deploy relevant technology to enhance practice. Healthcare organizations should check the technological educational background of all healthcare providers they hire. In addition, staff training strategy can help update knowledge and skills, particularly improving knowledge of emerging and advanced technology in the health sector.

**References**

Denlea, G. R. (2017). *Evaluating outcomes of high fidelity simulation curriculum in a community college nursing program* (Doctoral dissertation, Wingate University). <https://media.proquest.com/media/hms/ORIG/2/D9x5K?_s=ikLjMAValvSNz4ufQUhDlJmNZgE%3D>

Furby, L. (2020). Implementing educational testing standards in nursing education. *Nursing Education Perspectives*, *41*(1), 70-71. <http://doi.org/10.1097/01.NEP.0000000000000628>

Poojitha, M., & Bhoomadevi, A. (2021). Assessing the Attitude of the Physicians towards e-prescribing in Chennai. *REVISTA GEINTEC-GESTAO INOVACAO E TECNOLOGIAS*, *11*(4), 4489-4497. <https://doi.org/10.47059/revistageintec.v11i4.2475>