VIRTUAL PDA CARE PLAN TOOL TO ENHANCE STUDENT
MASTERY OF THE NURSING PROCESS

Virtual PDA Careplan Tool to Enhance Student Mastery of the Nursing Process

As more nursing educators are incorporating the PDA into the nursing curriculum, it is not surprising that many have identified the need for more PDA-based tools and resources that support the integration of these devices into the learning process. It was this observation made by undergraduate nursing faculty at ______ University, College of Nursing ______ lead to the development of several new collaborative partnerships with the School of Engineering, Computer Science (CS) Department and the School Information Science and Technology (IST) at ______ University. These partnerships have provided faculty from Nursing, IST and CS with many benefits—resulting in a win-win for all. First, it provided Nursing faculty to opportunity to develop a PDA based tool uniquely designed to help students achieve course/program objectives while also streamlining student activities and faculty workload. Second, this collaboration has allowed CS and IST faculty to provide realistic programming experiences for their students. Specifically, it has provided the IST and CS students with an opportunity to complete course work by developing and programming tool/applications that have ‘real world’ application/utility as well as working closely with a real ‘customer’.

The tool developed supports nursing student mastery of the nursing process by providing a mobile method to collect and organize patient assessment data, select appropriate NANDA nursing diagnosis and plan nursing care accordingly. Students can submit their careplans to faculty by beaming or uploading via a web-based server. Faculty can review careplans, make comments and recommendations for modification, and ‘beam’ feedback to the student while in the clinical setting. This capability provides an opportunity for faculty to capitalize on the ‘teachable moment’, making the most of the clinical learning experience. This presentation will include a frank discussion of the process involved in establishing these partnerships; identify benefits and potential pitfalls as well as lessons learned. Included in this presentation will be a brief demonstration of PDA Nursing Care Plan tool developed as a result of this partnership including outcomes as well as feedback received from both faculty and student users.