

18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on

# Nursing & Healthcare

December 05-07, 2016 Dallas, USA

## Empowering patients to use the WWW safely to make decisions regarding their health

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Source of health information that continues to empower patients' is the use of the internet and social media sites. Technology has made electronic health information resources readily available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When patients use these sites for health information seeking, nurses have to ask themselves, "What education is communicated in order for this patient to become empowered and be a well-educated participant in their internet health-seeking behavior? Nurses, in the inpatient and outpatient settings, are in a key position to assess and communicate educational principles to the empowered patient on how to effectively access and assess information on the internet. An exploratory study was conducted assessing nurses' level of knowledge and use of the internet. In addition, the study explored nurses' assessment and education of their patients in using the internet. This presentation will introduce the results of the study supporting the need for educational programs on how to use the internet safely for both patients and nursing professionals. Several tools will be presented that will guide individuals in using the internet to seek health related information.

### Biography

Debra M Wolf is an Associate Professor of Nursing and an independent Healthcare Informatics Consultant. Dr. Wolf has over 35 years of experience within the healthcare arena. Her area of expertise focuses on integrating technology into a healthcare setting focusing on change management, process redesign and more recently the use of social media in supporting clinicians health 2.0 needs. Dr. Wolf has worked closely with various IT vendors and health systems in exploring and integrating new technologies. In 2013 she published her first book titled "Social media for nurses: Educating practitioners and patients in a networked world".

Bonnie B. Anton MN RN FHIMSS has over 35 years of experience in acute care nursing. Presently she is an informatics nurse conducting electronic health record implementation and education training sessions for nursing and health care providers. Presently, in addition to her role as an informatics nurse, she also is evaluating the impact of patient education and health literacy on patients' hospital readmissions and has implemented a health literacy educational session for newly hired hospital employees. She has presented nationally and internationally on informatics, social media and health literacy.

John Wenskovitch is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. He received a Master's Degree in Computer Science from the University of Pittsburgh in 2011. He is currently completing his Computer Science PhD at Virginia Tech.

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