The state of art of standardizing nursing language in European countries

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Abstract. The use of standardized nursing languages varies between and even within different European countries. Standardization of a nursing language is a demanding process which requires substantial methodological and technological knowledge as well as a lot of cultural experience in terminology development work. A survey is carried out to describe the current state of art of the use of standards in nursing documentation. A web-based questionnaire is targeted to members of the Association for Common European Nursing Diagnoses, Interventions and Outcomes (ACENDIO) and all others interested in nursing language development. Based on the results the purpose is to identify those key components which have been successful in the adoption of a standardized nursing terminology. The results are disseminated and discussed with international colleagues in the workshop. The ultimate aim is to enhance the standardization activities in existing and evolving networks in Europe as well as in other parts of the world.

Keywords. Standards, EPR, Terminology, Classification

Background

The standardization of nursing language has been in process already for many years. However, standardized structures and terminologies for nursing recording are not very common within European countries.\textsuperscript{[1,2]} The most common model to structure nursing notes in health records is the nursing process model presented by the World Health Organization (WHO)\textsuperscript{[3]. According to the model the nursing process can be divided into four up to six phases based on the decision making theory. Assessment, planning, intervention and evaluation are the most commonly used phases in the decision making process. Nursing diagnosis has been added as an independent phase after assessment in many countries to emphasize the importance of naming the outcomes of assessment \textsuperscript{[4,5]. Many countries have followed the development work of
the International Council of Nursing (ICN) and their extensive product the International Classification of Nursing Interventions (ICNP) [6]. The NANDA classification has also been translated in to many European languages already for many years, as for example French, Spanish and Dutch. [7]

Since 1995 the Association for Common European Nursing Diagnoses, Interventions and Outcomes (ACENDIO) has offered a platform for discussion on terminology activities in the European countries. Standardization of nursing language has been the leading topic among members. ACENDIO Standardization Committee has three major objectives for its European wide activities: 1) the translation of terms used to describe nursing diagnoses, interventions and outcomes, 2) promoting compatibility with ICNP and cross-mapping of national terms and classification systems, 3) receiving and reviewing proposed diagnoses, interventions and outcomes, and 4) promoting means of validating proposed diagnoses, interventions and outcomes (www.acendio.net). The list of activities is very demanding and thus the board of ACENDIO decided to conduct a survey to have more in depth information about the state of standardization and width of support needed in standardization work within nursing in Europe.

**Purpose and goals of the workshop**
The purpose of this workshop is to present the results of a European level survey on the state of art of standardizing nursing language. The survey aims at answering the following questions:

- What models and structures are used in nursing notes in health records in Europe?
- What nursing terminologies have been translated into European languages and are they validated for cultural use?
- What kind of organizations and collaborative efforts exist in the nursing language standardization work in Europe?
- What is the role of health care authorities in developing standardized nursing language in European countries?
- What kind of support is needed in standardization work at national level in European countries?

The instrument for this survey is designed based on literature and experiences from the ACENDIO conferences. The instrument will include: background information, use of structures and terminologies in nursing documentation, national initiatives and activities, means of organizing standardization activities in nursing, methods of support from national stakeholders.

The results from the survey will be presented at MIE 2008 conference. A special workshop will enhance European level discussion on the state of art of standardization in nursing. International perspectives are integrated in discussion by international participants.

**Duration of the workshop:**
A session presented during the Congress

**Level:** Introductory
Attendee background: Attendees need to have an interest in standardization, particularly from a nursing language perspective. They do not need to have a prior knowledge of standardization work to attend.

Presentation format: The presentation will consist of slide-based lecture format presenting the results of the survey, group discussions and a summary of future challenges.

Learning objectives: Attendees at this workshop will accomplish the following:
- Receive access to the results of the survey.
- Understand differences in the standardization process used in different countries.
- Explore the development of terminology work and the support needed to nursing language standardization.
- Compare standardization activities for nursing language in different countries.
- Discuss future standardization activities in existing and starting networks in Europe as well as in other parts of the world.

Required equipment: Data projector and presentation laptops are needed for the workshop. No additional equipment is needed.

Classification: This content reaches across all areas of nursing. The workshop is based on the results of the European wide survey. The results concern also management and research activities.

References


