

Scholarly Article Essay

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The United States Veterans Affairs serves an estimate of nine million Veterans. The VA is one of the largest integrated healthcare systems in the country and has been a major leader of the healthcare informatics development. This article reviews the evolution of its HER, VistA (Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture) through a nursing informatics perspective.

This article starts with the Veterans Affairs dating back to the American Civil War when Abraham Lincoln formed the motto of the Department of Veterans Affairs. “To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan” (Deckro et al., 2021). The introductory of the Veterans Affairs starts with having over 397,000 employees with it begin one of the largest cabinet-level agencies in the Executive Branch. The Veterans Affairs hold responsibility of caring the beneficiaries of each veteran. Within the Veterans Affairs, a large component is the Veterans Health Administration, which the most integrated healthcare system in the United States. The use of big data is a way how nursing informatics play a big role within the Veterans Affairs. “This legacy began with the innovative efforts to create CPRS and the BCMA, These two programs have become the hallmark for current medication administration records” (Deckro et al., 2021). When CPRS emerging within the Veterans Health Administration, the development of nursing informatics help created safety features for the administration of patient medications. This seemed to spark a standardized methodology for analytics to observe nursing administration outcomes. Because of this The VA Nursing Outcomes Database was formed by nursing informatics. The implementation of nursing informatics concluded to provide more choices and offered reliable and integrated care for Veterans. The results were modernizing their EHR system and became the leading application of big data science in analyzing the value of nursing and what it brings to health care.

I fully agree with the integration of Nursing Informatics within the Veterans Affairs. This perspective has brought out the strengths of the usage of Nursing informatics and created a stronger source of data that other analytics may not have thought of. How I can apply this knowledge gained from this article is that Nursing Informatics can enhance other healthcare systems, not just the Veterans Affairs. The application of Nursing informatics and be used universally. If it has potential within our country, it may have a positive impact with other countries.

References

Deckro, J., Phillips, T., Davis, A., Hehr, A. T., & Ochylski, S. (2021). Big Data in the Veterans\ Health Administration: A Nursing Informatics Perspective. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 53(3), 288–295. doi:10.1111/jnu.12631