

Abstract

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The Benefits and Barriers towards the Implementation of an Electronic Nursing Record and the Potential to use Speech-to-text Technology to Support Point of Care Documentation in the Irish Context

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Nurses in Ireland have traditionally documented in a paper-based patient record. The transition to an electronic record will be a paradigm shift for nurses in Ireland.

Retrospective documentation has been associated with the traditional approach to documentation. However, point-of-care documentation will be essential to the successful integration of an electronic record. Speech-to-text technology is continually evolving and could act as a solution to point-of-care documentation.

The literature review was conducted prior to the study as outlined and was an essential prerequisite for two reasons. An explainer video was devised as a method for communicating challenging yet key concepts. The literature was reviewed to ensure it supported the use of this medium in the chosen context. Furthermore, a review of the literature provided the rationale for the study and identified previous studies to inform the methodology of this research. A quantitative research method was utilised. A questionnaire was developed for this purpose. Data was gathered using an online and paper based questionnaire. Data was analysed using Qualtrics and Microsoft Excel.

Successful implementation and adaptation to a new technology system can be dependent upon a number of factors as highlighted in the literature. Education, continuous support, and Involvement at an early stage of development has been directly associated with nurses accepting and adapting to a new system. It would appear that there are more perceived barriers than benefits to the implementation of an electronic nursing record and STT technology. However, recognition of the barriers and early intervention with possible solutions can ensure that nurses remain engaged with the technology. Adaptation to a new technology system is extremely challenging. However, it is achievable if nurses are continuously informed and supported by the vendor, nurse leaders and 'super-users'.