



Benefits of ICNP

Promoting the use of ICNP in Norway

Ensuring nurses have the information tools they need to meet the changing health and care needs of citizens

The Norwegian Nurses Organisation (NNO) recommends the use by nurses of the International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP), and is promoting its integration into Electronic Health Record systems across Norway.

ICNP, a product of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), is an agreed terminology, or dictionary of terms, that enables nurses to describe and report their practice in a systematic way. The resulting information is used to support care and effective decision-making, and to inform nursing education and health policy.

ICNP is published in 18 different languages, including Norwegian.

Both nurses and the people they care for have a right to expect good information about health and illness, and about services and treatments. However, the quality of this information currently can be variable.

Although this concern is not confined to Norway, the NNO has recognised a need, at a national-level, to focus attention on the language used to describe nursing and to work towards a unified approach.

The reasons given by the NNO for endorsing the use of ICNP and for promoting it in practice include:

Comprehensive. Due to the shifting nature of healthcare, no supporting terminology can claim to be complete. However, the unique and rigorous formal foundation of ICNP affords flexibility, which ensures that the inherent diversity of nursing can be

adequately captured.

Stewardship. ICN is operated by nurses, for nurses. While nurses across the world are committed to multi-disciplinary working, oversight of ICNP by ICN ensures that the specific information needs of nursing are not overshadowed by the potentially conflicting interests of others.

Collaboration and support. Nurses in Norway have been collaborating closely with the ICNP development team for many years, principally via the translation effort. This ongoing joint work has involved the exchange of ideas, and the improvement of ICNP through the clarification of existing terms and the addition of new terms. ICN has benefited from Norway's involvement in the ICNP Programme. And Norway, as it moves towards more comprehensive standardisation of nursing documentation, in turn has benefited from the ongoing support of ICN.

Involvement. Citizens increasingly want to participate in prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and service provision. However, the language of health and illness can make it difficult for people to meaningfully engage. ICNP provides the potential to deliver to citizens, information that meets their needs and supports their preferences.

CONTACT DETAILS

On behalf of ICN:
Amy Amherdt
icnp@icn.ch

On behalf of the NNO:
Kathryn Mølstad
Kathryn.Molstad@nsf.no

November 2018