



Benefits of ICNP

Facilitating Specialty Practice using ICNP: Paediatric Pain Management

Ensuring nurses have the information tools they need to improve the management of pain in children

Pain in children is disruptive, physically, emotionally and socially. Nurses have been leading change in both the knowledge of, and attitudes toward pain management in children. Nurses help children, their family members, and other health professionals to manage pain. Nurses can use the International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP) to work together across cultures and languages to improve care for children experiencing pain.

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

A team of experts from Children's National Health System in Washington DC, United States, including experts in paediatric pain, nursing informatics, nursing research and library science, collaborated with ICN to develop a standardised database or subset of terms drawn from ICNP (also known as an ICNP Catalogue) to support nursing paediatric pain management.

The ICNP Catalogue provides a terminology for paediatric pain management, with associated coding for the future extraction of meaningful nursing data from the electronic health record. Nurse experts on the team identified a set of concepts to represent nursing diagnoses (e.g. chronic pain, lack of appetite), nursing interventions (e.g. assess pain, initiate patient-

controlled analgesia) and outcomes (e.g. pain control) based on best practice guidelines and research reports in the literature.

The final ICNP Catalogue was based on evidence, consensus of expert opinion, and potential utility. Some of the aspects covered in the ICNP Catalogue include family and patient values and preferences, patient function, patient knowledge, patient safety and collaboration.

ICNP Catalogues do not replace the clinical judgement of nurses. Rather, ICNP Catalogues provide a diversity of concepts to allow nurses the opportunity to refine and individualise nursing documentation and planning at the point of care. ICN has developed a number of other Catalogues, e.g. Palliative Care, Community Nursing.

In addition to its use in planning and managing nursing care, the data collected using this ICNP Catalogue can be used for financial forecasting, analysis of patient outcomes, and policy development. The ICNP Catalogue Paediatric Pain Management is significant to nursing because it reflects the nursing commitment to evidence-based, high-quality health care.

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