International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP®)

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The International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP®) is a unified nursing language system. ICNP® is a compositional terminology for nursing practice that facilitates cross-mapping of local terms and existing terminologies.

Vision of the ICNP®

ICNP® is an integral part of the global information infrastructure informing health care practice and policy to improve patient care worldwide.

Strategic goals for ICNP®

- Serve as a major force to articulate nursing’s contribution to health and health care globally.
- Promote harmonization with other widely used classifications and the work of standardization groups in health and nursing.

Elements of the ICNP®

The ICNP® can be used to represent Nursing Diagnoses (Nursing Phenomena), Nursing Interventions (Nursing Actions), and Nursing Outcomes.

Participation in ICNP® Development

⇒ ICN encourages and facilitates participation of individuals and groups in the ongoing development and maintenance of the ICNP®.

⇒ Nurses and organisations are encouraged to use ICNP® in clinical practice and to carry out research and development projects involving ICNP®.

⇒ Nurses with similar interests in ICNP® are encouraged to apply to become ICN-Accredited ICNP® Research & Development Centres. Centres set their own work plan objectives and meet every two years at ICNP® Consortium meetings.

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Benefits of the ICNP®

- Establishes an international standard to facilitate description and comparison of nursing practice;
- Serves as a unifying nursing language system for international nursing based on state-of-the-art terminology standards;
- Represents nursing concepts used in local, regional, national and international practice, across specialties, languages and cultures;
- Generates information about nursing practice that will influence decision-making, education and policy in the areas of patient needs, nursing interventions, health outcomes, and resource utilization;
- Facilitates the development of nursing data sets used in research to direct policy by describing and comparing nursing care of individuals, families and communities worldwide;
- Improves communication within the discipline of nursing and across other disciplines;
- Encourages nurses to reflect on their own practice and influence improvements in quality of care.

Communicating About ICNP®

- The ICNP® Bulletin is published twice a year and is available on the ICN website in English, French and Spanish.
- Multiple translations of ICNP® are underway. Watch the website for announcements of availability of translations. A browser and translation tool is also described on the website.
- ICNP® Catalogues are being developed for application in nursing phenomena, care specialties, settings, and health conditions. See the website.
- The next ICNP® R&D Centres Consortium meeting will be scheduled at the ICN 24th Quadrennial Congress, 27 June – 4 July 2009, Durban, South Africa.

A hardcopy of the ICNP® Version 1.0 is available from ICN (FAX: 44-22-908-01-01) or via the ICN web site at: http://www.icn.ch/bookshop.htm

Online information on the ICNP® is available at: http://www.icn.ch/icnp.htm

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